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OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE CHIEFLY TO THE

NATURAL HISTORY,

Picturesque Scenery,

AND

ANTIQUITIES,

OF THE

Western Counties of England,

Made in the Years 1794 and 1796.

ILLUSTRATED BY

A Mineralogical Map, and sixteen Views in Aquatinta by Alken.

BY

WILLIAM GEORGE MATON, M. A.

FELLOW OF THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

WESTERN COUNTIES.

DORSETSHIRE

CONTINUED.

HAVING reſolved to viſit the more northern part of Dorſetſhire previous to our entrance into Somerſetſhire, we commenced our ſurvey of the former at Shafteſbury. The road leading to this town from Saliſbury diverges

Dorſet. ſo much from that which we had purſued on our firſt tour, that we could not recontemplate any part of the country before trodden. A ridge of hills too, projecting ſometimes into bold, round knolls, and forming the boundaries both of Wiltſhire and chalk,* became a ſort of ſcreen on our left.

Shafteſbury. SHAFTESBURY barely ſtands within the county of Dorſet, and is on the edge of a noble eminence that ſeems to form a natural barrier to Wiltſhire, and commands a view of aſtoniſhing extent to the ſouth-weſt. It is a town of great antiquity, but its preſent appearance ill correſponds with the account given of it by the old writers, in whoſe time there were twelve churches (beſides the famous Benedictine monaſtery founded by Alfred,) and three mints.

* The tract included between the above mentioned ridge and the river Willy conſiſts of limeſtone, communicating with the *ſtratum* that covers ſo large a part of Somerſetſhire and the contiguous parts of Dorſetſhire, but, though full of ſhells, it has a more looſe and granular texture. There are at Fovant quarries of freeſtone.

No

No part of the monaſtery remains, nor are there more than three churches ſtanding, excluſive of St. James's, at the foot of the hill, which belongs to the liberty of Alceſter. The houſes are built with ſtone, but the ſtreets have rather a mean appearance.—Few places have been diſtreſſed for water more than Shafteſbury, the ſituation being ſo high that it was neceſſary for the engines, erected ſome years ago for furniſhing a ſupply, to raiſe it three hundred feet perpendicularly. Theſe works are now neglected, a circumſtance of ſome *advantage* to the poor, many of whom gain a livelihood by fetching water from a diſtance on their heads, or on horſes' backs.—On a ſpot called *Caſtle-green*, at the weſtern extremity of the town, are traces of entrenchments, and here perhaps a caſtle once ſtood, which from the nature of the ſituation muſt have been impregnable. A vaſt landſcape appears hence, and, when illumined by the ſplendid rays of a morning ſun, forms a ſcene truly glorious; though, for my own part, I was moſt intereſted in the ſuffuſion of this *Dorſet.*

Dorſet. aſtoniſhing expanſe with the various *ſombre* hues of evening. It is by no means deſtitute of feature. In front, an eminence called *Duncliffe-hill* riſes with a beautifully wooded ſummit, bounding the fertile vale of Blackmoor, through which a white road ſometimes loſing itſelf among woodlands, and ſometimes traverſing verdant paſtures, winds weſtward into the diſtance. On the left, a fine undulating ridge ſhelters the vale; whilſt the hills of Mere in Wiltſhire, with Alfred's tower at the extremity, the torr of Glaſtonbury, and the hazy heights of Quantock, in Somerſetſhire, range themſelves in the remaining part of the horizon.

Purſuing our route towards Sherborn, we
Stour. come to the village of STOUR, not far diſtant from the ſource of the river which runs through it, and from which it takes its name.—The Stour firſt diſcovers itſelf in the delightful grounds of Sir Richard Hoare, at Stourton in Wiltſhire, and continues its courſe by Sturminſter to Blandford, watering one of the fineſt

fineſt tracts of paſture land in the kingdom. Paſturage *only* is ſeen in this part of the county, which from the multitude of cows fed on it may truly be called "*a land flowing with milk.*" The moſt conſiderable part of it is included within the vale of Blackmoor,—a moſt rich diſtrict ſurrounded by hills, and moiſtened by numerous ſtreams that are at length ſwallowed up in the Stour, and render its current very wide. *Dorſet.*

As we approach Henſtridge, we may diſcern STALBRIDGE, where the great Mr. Boyle reſided, and where he made ſome of his earlieſt experiments. The ſeat is now the property of the Earl of Uxbridge. Stalbridge.

The Sherborn road leaves Henſtridge a little to the left, paſſing by an inn called *Henſtridge-Aſh*, from a large aſh-tree that ſtood here formerly.—It then brings us to Milborn-Port. Henſtridge Aſh.

MILBORN-PORT is ſituated in a pleaſant vale, Milborn Port,

Dorſet. but, though a borough, has a mean appearance, and is of no extent. It carries on, however, manufactories of woollen cloth, linen, and hoſiery.—The guildhall (ſtanding in the high ſtreet) ſeems to be a very ancient building, and has a curious door-way, which is in a ſort of Saxon ſtile.—The repreſentation is under the management of about a dozen perſons.

Sherborn. Fine, bold hills, covered with wood, now appear on the left, and as we enter SHERBORN, the old caſtle and the magnificent ſeat of the Earl of Digby come in view.—Here the unfortunate Sir Walter Raleigh ſpent as much of his time as his various employments would allow; we felt great curioſity to viſit the reſidence of that celebrated ſtateſman. It is highly intereſting to watch great minds even in the periods of their relaxation, and to ſearch for whatever memorials they may have left even of their follies or amuſements. We were conducted to a grove planted by Sir Walter himſelf, which ſtill retains his name, and

and here we could fancy him retired from the buſtle and intrigues of a court to enjoy in rural tranquillity the ſong of a favourite poet. *Dorſet.*

The manor and caſtle of Sherborn were granted to Sir Walter Raleigh in the year 1592; and the middle part of the Lodge (which is now in the form of a Roman H) was built by him, the date and his arms being viſible on the windows.* The two wings were added, ſoon after the Reſtoration, by the Earl of Briſtol, out of the ruins of the caſtle. When viewed together with the decorated grounds around it, the fine ſheet of water, and the hanging woods to the ſouth, the building has a very grand and ſtriking effect. The gardens were partly laid out by Brown, and great taſte is diſplayed in the management of them, as well as of the park, which is three hundred and forty acres in

* The date is 1594.

Dorſet. extent. The river Yeo, or Ivel, runs through the latter, and is croſſed by a handſome ſtone-bridge of three arches, built by Milne.

North of the Lodge, but within the grounds, ſtand the remains of Sherborn Caſtle. From the fragments of the walls being extremely maſſy, there can be no doubt that this was once a ſtrong and regular fortreſs, and, from the height of the ſituation, it muſt have commanded all the adjacent vale to the north and weſt. Its form ſeems to have been octagonal, and there was a very deep moat round it, except on the north ſide, where the quickneſs of the aſcent was a ſufficient ſecurity. We obſerved ſome traces of an arched paſſage, or ſally-port, in this direction, running ſtrait down the precipice towards the level ground at a diſtance. The front ſeems to be more modern than any other part of the caſtle, the upper windows being ſquare, and the arch of the gate (which is evidently in the ſame ſtile of work) circular. A little within the gate, on the

Mulgrave Castle del.
J. Allen fecit.

the left, are the remains of what, I conjecture, must have been the state-apartments, one part of which was carried up very high; there is a large Saxon column still standing towards the area. The chapel stood on this side, and a great part of the walls may be seen, ornamented with Saxon arches that intersect one another; the windows have zigzag mouldings. The whole building was originally faced with Ham-hill stone, but much of this was transferred to the Lodge at the time of the additions made by the Earl of Bristol, so that the walls have now a ragged appearance:—the trees around them, however, contribute with the position of some of the fragments to give the whole ruin a picturesque aspect. *Dorset.*

Sherborn Castle was the ancient palace of the Bishops of that see, which being removed to Old Sarum when united to that of Wilton, William the Conqueror granted it to Bishop Osmund. From this period it continued to belong to the Bishops of Sarum until the reign

Dorſet. reign of Stephen, about which time I apprehend the preſent building was erected—probably by Biſhop Roger, who ſeems to have been a great architect (and particularly in the military line), having built caſtles at Devizes and Malmeſbury alſo. His edifices are deſcribed as being "*for ſpace very large, for coſt very chargeable, for ſhew very beautiful. The ſtones are ſet in ſuch exact order that the joints cannot be ſeen, and the whole ſtructure ſeems to be but one ſtone.*" The Caſtle of Sherborn was certainly in every reſpect correſpondent to this deſcription, as we may perceive, even from its ruins. Nothing remarkable occurs in its military hiſtory until the time of the Rebellion, when the Earl of Bedford ſat down before it on the part of the Parliament. It is reported that the Earl's ſiſter (the Counteſs of Briſtol) was at this very time at the Lodge, and, being informed that her brother had orders to demoliſh it, immediately went on horſeback to his tent, and told him that "*if he perſiſted in his intention, he ſhould find his ſiſter's bones buried in the ruins.*"

This

This ſpirited reſolution, probably, alone ſaved it from deſtruction. After the battle of Langport, Sir Thomas Fairfax reſolved to reduce the Caſtle, at that time commanded by Sir Lewis Dives. It coſt Sir Thomas a ſiege of ſixteen days. About two months afterwards the Parliament ordered it to be demoliſhed.*

The town of Sherborn was a place of great note in the Saxon times, and the ſee of a Biſhop from the reign of Ina to the year 1056, when Herman eſtabliſhed the latter at Old Sarum. It is even now indeed the moſt populous town in the county, except Poole, and is nearly two miles in circumference. The houſes are built chiefly with freeſtone, of which there are quarries at no great diſtance. Manufactories of various kinds are carried on; two, of ſilk, employ at leaſt ſix hundred people. The church is a very lofty, ſpacious, and ve-

* See Clarendon's *Hiſtory of the Rebellion.*

nerable

Dorſet. nerable ſtructure, and may be conſidered as a fine ſpecimen of the Gothic ſtile of Henry VI.'s time, when it was rebuilt.* It is two hundred and ſeven feet in length, and in breadth one hundred and two; the length however, muſt have been formerly much greater, for the weſt front could not have been originally finiſhed as it is at preſent. The roof of the nave, which is one hundred and nine feet high, is for the moſt part vaulted with ſtone, and decorated with rich mouldings, &c. The tower ſtands in the middle of the church, and is of a quadrangular form, ſupported by four arches. It

* The deſtruction of the old church was occaſioned by a quarrel between the monks and the townſmen, which ſprang from no leſs important a cauſe than the removal of the font! So exaſperated were the latter, that a *prieſt* of Allhallows (as Leland informs us) one day threw ſome fire into the upper part of the church, in conſequence of which the whole was nearly conſumed, and ſome of the bells melted.—We ſee every day how far, amidſt the rancor of party, men are apt to overlook the intereſts even of a common cauſe, and religion itſelf is often injured leſs by the attacks or inſinuations of the infidel than by the mutual animoſities of different bodies and the raging zeal of ſectaries.—The monks had their revenge on the townſmen by compelling them to re-edify the fabric.

contains

contains ſix large bells that require twenty men to ring them; the tenor weighing ſixty thouſand pounds, was the gift of Cardinal Wolſey, who was once rector of Limington in this neighbourhood. There is a complete Saxon porch (which ſeems to be the only part of the original fabric now left) on the ſouth ſide, and there are traces of the ſame ſpecies of architecture on many of the houſes near the church.—Ethelbald, King of the Weſt Saxons, and his brother Ethelbert are ſaid to have been interred here, but we could find no ſtone or inſcription to their memory. *Dorſet.*

Sherborn Church continued to be a conventual one until the time of the Diſſolution. In the chancel, and alſo at the weſt end, there are ſtill ſome of the monks' ſtalls. The rude figures and devices with which many of them are ornamented are whimſical and ludicrous enough; no leſs ſo are thoſe on ſome houſes adjoining to the north ſide of the church, that were probably reſidences of the monks. Here may be ſeen heads

Dorſet. heads, and whole bodies, of animals created only by the imagination of the ſculptor.—Not far northward ſtands a fine old conventual barn.

According to the obſervations made in digging wells, the following, I learn, is the ſucceſſion of the *ſtrata* in the neighbourhood of Sherborn: to the depth of three feet or more they uſually find a black mould; afterwards a thin ſcaly limeſtone (generally loaded with ſhells) appears. The limeſtone reſts on a bed of ferrugineous earth, or ſand, which is ſucceeded by *ſtrata* of limeſtone again (about three or four feet in thickneſs), occaſionally divided by beds of marl. Here ſprings are found.

Wiſhing to aſcertain as accurately as poſſible the courſe of the chalk in this county, and the appearance of its boundaries, we now made a journey ſouthward, and trod the rich ſoil of the vale of Blackmoor until we came to Revel-hill. The face of the country here altered, and the moſt pleaſing intermixture of wood and paſture

was

was exchanged for open downs and unvaried barrenneſs. Before we ſearched into the nature of the ſubſoil, we were ſufficiently inſtructed that it had paſſed into chalk by the altered aſpect of vegetation. By attending to this circumſtance, the mineralogiſt may often obtain pretty certain indications of the tranſitions of *ſtrata*, and thus agriculture and botany lend their aſſiſtance to him, as well as prove their intimate connection with each other. Agriculture, in its turn, receives help from mineralogy, for ſoils being ſo much dependent on the decompoſition of their *ſubſtrata*, the farmer can aſcertain neither the nature, nor the probability of finding a depth, of the former, but by learning the texture and properties of the minerals which conſtitute the latter. The botaniſt will afford information both to the farmer and to the mineralogiſt. He will often tell them, by the preſence of one particular plant, ſuch, for inſtance, as *Hedyſarum Onobrychis* (ſaint-foin), *Campanula glomerata*, or even the humble little *Hippocrepis comoſa*, (horſe-ſhoe vetch) that the ſoil *Dorſet.*

Dorſet. foil can be no other than a cretaceous one, and will point out in *Pteris aquilina* (brakes) a certain witneſs of a depth of mould.—But to return——Revel-hill forms a part of the ridge (which I ſhould diſtinguiſh by the name of the *chalk boundary*) coming from near Melbury ſomewhat in the ſhape of an amphitheatre, and paſſing hence, with many undulations, not far ſouth of Everſhot and Beminſter towards Axminſter in Devonſhire. The vale of Blackmoor (to which it is a boundary ſouthward) now appears to be of a ſort of elliptical ſhape, the longeſt diameter ſeeming to run from Melbury towards Long Burton. To the weſt of the latter lies the foreſt of Whitehart, and the country is finely wooded, preſenting moſt rich and delightful ſcenery. Projecting parts of the ridge are profuſely clothed on their declivities, and become noble features in the landſcape, which is of a nature that rarely occurs within the confines of this county, and may be juſtly conſidered as the moſt beautiful that it affords.

We

We found we were now but a few miles distant from Cerne-Abbas, and, being desirous of viewing the remains of its abbey, resolved to extend our ride to it.—On our left the country began to acquire a boldness and roundness of feature that prepared us for something romantic in the situation of Cerne.—We descended into this town from an immense chalk hill terminating towards it in a mountainous prominence crowned with a very large oblong entrenchment. On the declivity of the hill (generally known by the name of *Trendle-hill*) may be traced a gigantic figure, cut in the chalk, in the manner of the horse on Whitehorse-hill, in Berkshire, and probably of as great antiquity. It represents a man, holding a club in his right hand, and extending the other, and appears to be almost two hundred feet in height. There is a tradition among the vulgar that this was to commemorate the destruction of a giant, who, having feasted on some sheep in Blackmoor, and laid himself down to sleep after his meal on this hill, was bound and killed by the enraged peasants *Dorset.*

Dorſet. ſants on the ſpot.—Without reſorting to any ridiculous ſtory, or to any conceit of antiquarians, for the origin of the figure, one may conclude that moſt works of this ſort, eſpecially when contiguous to encampments, were the amuſement merely of idle people, and cut out with as little meaning, perhaps, as ſhepherds' boys ſtrip off the turf on the Wiltſhire plains.

Cerne. If we might believe William of Malmeſbury, CERNE Abbey was founded as early as the time of St. Auſtin, whoſe zeal in the converſion of the Saxons to the Chriſtian faith led him into theſe parts, where he performed ſeveral miracles. I fear we have need of better authority than our credulous monk's for ſuppoſing that the ſaint ever travelled ſo far from Kent, or that any miſſionary arrived in the weſt of England before Birinus, thirty years after the time of St. Auſtin. —The earlieſt period at which we have any *certain* account of a religious ſociety exiſting here is the year 870, when Edward, brother of St. Edmund, King of Eaſt Anglia is ſaid to have reſided

reſided in it. Through veneration for the memory of that monarch, Ailmer, Earl of Cornwall and Devon, rebuilt and endowed the abbey for Benedictine monks about 987.* Among the diſtinguiſhed men who have lived in it was Cardinal Morton.—The gate-houſe of the abbey remains externally entire, but does not appear to be of a date long prior to the Diſſolution. There are two ſtories above the gateway, each having a projecting window, which is adorned with elaborate ſculpture. Some buildings ſouth of the gate appear to have belonged to the abbey, and are more ancient than the former, but have been converted into a farm-houſe and other dwellings. A manſion facing Market-ſtreet was conſtructed principally with the old ſtone, and bears the name of the *Abbey-houſe*, which was ſome time the reſidence of Denzil, Lord Holles, ſecond ſon of John, firſt Earl of Clare, and miniſter plenipotentiary to the treaty of Breda.—

* Hutchins's *Hiſtory of Dorſet*, vol. 2, p. 287.

Dorſet. The conventual church ſtood probably eaſt of the abbey, and parallel to the preſent churchyard. I apprehend it muſt have been uſed for parochial purpoſes, otherwiſe the burial ground would not have been contiguous to it; the preſent church is ſome hundred yards diſtant from the latter.

Cerne is a ſmall town, and, being ſurrounded on all ſides by high hills, appears extremely ſecluded and well calculated for the monaſtic life. Southward the ſcenery improves in boldneſs, and the ridges of chalk that rear themſelves with an immenſe naked outline about Sidling form a ſpecies of landſcape not often witneſſed in other counties.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

TAKING leave of Dorſetſhire, we purſued a circuitous track to Ilcheſter, a town that ſeemed to deſerve particular attention on account of its antiquity.—But we firſt paſſed through the village of BROAD MARSTON, whither we were led in ſearch of a *natural* curioſity. —In the year 1778, at the opening of a marl pit, a *ſtratum* of a very uncommon and beautiful ſpecies of ſtone was diſcovered, containing a congeries of *ammonitæ*, ſcarcely deprived of the animal part of their compoſition (the nacre of the ſhells being ſtill viſible), and of various ſizes, from one quarter of an inch to an inch in diameter.

Broad Marſton.

Somerſet. ameter. The ground of it, which is of a greyiſh blue colour, conſiſts of indurated marl. The ſhells, being filled wlth variegated ſparry matter, when poliſhed exhibit a ſingular appearance, and the whole becomes an elegant, ornamental ſubſtance for chimney-pieces, &c. It is found about eight feet below the ſurface of the ground, and the thickneſs of the maſs is in general about eight or nine inches. How far the *ſtratum* may extend it is not eaſy to aſcertain, but it has not been as yet much diminiſhed.

The pariſh of Broad Marſton is ſituated in a low flat country eaſtward of Ilcheſter.—Moſt of the lands in this part of Somerſetſhire are paſture, and thickly encloſed with wood, chiefly elm, which grows very abundantly. There ſeems to be great moiſture and coldneſs in the ſoil.

We could not help admiring a bold eminence, with a large encampment on the top, which occaſionally came in view, and which, from its

its bearing, we concluded muſt be the ancient ſtation of CADBURY. It is ſituated at the extremity of a ſteep ridge of hills (nearly ſouth of Caſtle Cary), and muſt have been one of the ſtrongeſt poſitions, perhaps, in the kingdom. The form of the ramparts being ſeemingly accommodated to that of the hill, and as the old topographers give but an obſcure account of this fortification, I cannot gueſs at what period it was conſtructed. Leland ſpeaks of it in a ſort of ecſtacy. "Good God!" (ſays he) "what deep ditches! what high ramparts! what precipices! In ſhort, it really appears to me to be a wonder both of art and nature."* *Somerſet.* Cadbury.

ILCHESTER ſtands on the banks of the river Ivel (the *Velox* of Ravennas), whence it originally had the name of *Ivelcheſter*. It was one of the Ilcheſter.

* "Dii boni, quantum hîc profundiſſimarum foſſarum! quot hic egeſtæ terræ valla! quæ demum precipitia! Atque, ut paucis finiam, videtur mihi quidem eſſe et artis et naturæ miraculum."

Aſſert. Arturii, p. 29.

Somerſet. moſt famous ſtations poſſeſſed by the Romans, and there are ſtill many veſtiges of its ancient extent. Vaſt arches and foundations of buildings lie beneath the ſurface of the ground, and ſome remains of a Roman wall are diſcernible. The form of the old city ſeems to have been oblong, ſtanding on the oblique points of the compaſs. It was ſurrounded by a ditch, which could eaſily be filled with water from the river, and of which a part may yet be traced to the north-weſt, exactly in the direction of *Yard-lane*.—A great number of Roman coins, of various periods, have been found here. Our innkeeper ſhewed us a collection that he had formed at the time of the removal of Whitehall Hoſpital, near his ſtables; the moſt remarkable of them were a Nero, ſome pieces of Antoninus Pius, a Veſpaſian, and a Maximian.—Beſides military, there are various relics of monaſtic antiquities at Ilcheſter. The ruins of the old hoſpital of Whitehall, indeed, are now completely removed to make room for a wharf, oppoſite the county gaol, which ſtands on the northern ſide

of

of the river. Some part of a houſe of black friars, however, is ſtill to be ſeen, but the north tranſept of the conventual church has been metamorphoſed into a ſpinning-houſe !—— *Somerſet.*

" Sic volvenda ætas commutat tempora rerum."

The friary was founded about the year 1270, according to Collinſon.*—The Ark-inn ſeems to have been originally a religious houſe—perhaps the chapel of St. Mary Minor that we read of. This inn is ſituated on the bridge. The latter conſiſts of two large arches, and croſſes the river juſt in the direction of the ancient Roman foſſeway.—The only church now ſtanding is that of St. Mary, at the weſt end of which is an octagonal tower, ſuppoſed to be built with Roman materials.

The ſeat of a municipality as well as of a government; Ilcheſter as well as Babylon has its

* *Hiſtory of Somerſet*, vol. 3, p. 301.

turn

Somerſet. turn in the changes of things. This place was one of the moſt important ſtations of the Romans in the iſland, and a very flouriſhing town in the Saxon times, but it is now reduced to a mean ſtreet or two, with nothing to proclaim its former grandeur, except the numerous urns, teſſellated pavements, and ſtatues, which owe their diſcovery to accident, or which occur only to the indefatigable attention of the antiquary.

In the conſtruction of the county gaol, and indeed of many other buildings in this part of the country, we obſerved that a ſpecies of freeſtone has been uſed which appears (though ſo ſoft when firſt taken out of the quarry) to become hardened by the weather to an extraordinary degree. It is dug in conſiderable quantities at Hamden hill, and contains, like the Portland freeſtone, a multitude of ſhells, differing from the latter only in being ſlightly tinged with a browniſh red oxyde of iron.—Moſt of the cottages in the neighbourhood are built with a bluiſh limeſtone, called *lyas ;* this abounds about

Somer-

Somerton and Kingſdon, and is an extremely uſeful ſubſtance. In our way to the former of theſe places we ſaw it in the quarries. It lies juſt below the ſurface of the ground, in horizontal *ſtrata*, which conſiſt of looſe maſſes, or *flags*, but the texture is very cloſe and compact. *Somerſet.*

On ſome of the hills we caught a view of Glaſtonbury torr, which juſt roſe above the high ground on the right. Montacute hills* were fine objects on our left, and are viſible to an immenſe diſtance; they overlook, it is ſaid, a tract of country three hundred miles in circumference. Weſt of theſe hills riſes the high rocky ridge of Hamden, on the top of which is a bold Roman encampment, ſuppoſed to be nearly three miles in circuit.

* So called from the ancient village of Montacute, where a priory of Cluniac monks was founded by William, Earl of Morton and Cornwall, whoſe reſidence ſtood above. I know not whether there are any remains of theſe buildings.

In

Somerſet. Somerton.

In a fertile and pleaſant part of the county, on an eminence, ſtands the town of SOMERTON. Whatever doubt may be entertained of this place having been a Roman ſtation, there can be none of its having been well known in the Saxon times and even as early as the Heptarchy. It appears that Ina had a caſtle and palace here, which Ethelbald, King of Mercia, for a while had poſſeſſion of, during his war with the former. Whether it was the ſame fortreſs in which John, King of France, was afterwards confined, when a priſoner of Edward III. cannot now be aſcertained. Seeing ſome fragments of old walls and the veſtiges of a circular tower near the Bear-inn, we concluded that theſe might be the remains of one or the other, but I find from Collinſon that the county-priſon once ſtood on this ſite. We obſerved ſeveral buildings of an antique appearance as we paſſed through the town; there are none, however, particularly deſerving of notice.—Somerton is eſteemed a very healthy place, and it has an air of neatneſs and reſpectability, but no longer any pretenſions

to

to be ranked among the principal towns in the county.—The chief concern of the natives of this diſtrict is grazing, and they have the right of common, gratis, on a large tract of excellent land, a little weſtward from Somerton. *Somerſet.*

Intending to take the neareſt route to Taunton, we viſited LANGPORT. This town (which is of ſome antiquity) is ſituated chiefly on an aſcent, having a rich country to the north and ſouth, and a conſiderable extent of fine meadow land to the weſt. The latter, from being depaſtured in common, without interruption from the cattle of other pariſhes, is called *Common-Moor.* No lord of any adjoining manor has a right of ſoil in it, and the neighbouring inhabitants have from time immemorial fed their cattle, and built when and in what manner they pleaſed.—The river Parret, navigable here for barges, paſſes through Langport, and is croſſed by a ſtone bridge of nine arches. The fall of this river hence to Boroughbridge is only one inch in a mile; from the level of Langport.

King's

Somerſet. King's Sedgemoor to its bed the fall is fifteen feet.

Two miles diſtant from Langport, to the ſouth, are ſome remains of the ancient abbey of Muchelney, in our way to which we paſſed under a long arched gate-way that had the appearance of a military work. Over it, however, is a ſmall old room which was originally a chapel, now converted into a free-ſchool. This building is vulgarly called *the hanging chapel.*— It ſtands near the church, in the higheſt part of the town.

The pariſh of Biſhop's Huiſh adjoins to Langport on the north-eaſt, and contains fine paſture and meadow lands, in which vaſt numbers of cattle are reared and fattened for the market. The tower of Huiſh church is a very ſtately elegant object, being ornamented at the top with eight beautiful Gothic pinnacles, each ſurmounted with a ſpear-head.

MUCHELNEY is a tract of land encloſed between the Ivel and a branch of the Parret, and from being frequently inſulated by the floods of the ſurrounding moors is often denominated the *great iſland*. There are about thirty cottages in a village of the ſame name, on the ſouth-weſt ſide of which we found the Abbey, now converted into a farm-houſe. Some venerable old elms ſeem ſtill to ſhed a ſort of religious gloom over the ſpot, and there are evident marks of antiquity even in the barns and out-houſes. The apartments that remain were probably thoſe of the abbot. A part of the old kitchen, with the ſtove, &c. may be ſeen, and a good deal of painted glaſs is retained in the windows, which are much ornamented with ſculpture on the outſide. Stone ſtair-caſes and large pointed arches are entire in various parts of the houſe. The eaſt end of it is part of a chapel, which (according to William of Worceſter) belonged to the abbey, excluſive of the conventual church, and was dedicated to the Virgin. It is decorated with a pro-

Somerſet. a profuſion of florid ſculpture.—In the adjoining orchard we traced the foundations of walls to ſome diſtance. No veſtiges of the conventual church appear, unleſs indeed the preſent parochial one was uſed as ſuch; I think it is not, however, in a ſtile, or on a ſcale, ſufficiently magnificent to have belonged to the ſociety, whoſe revenues were ample and number conſiderable * The reigning monarch, we find, was always their patron. This circumſtance ſeems to indicate that one of our kings was the founder of the abbey; and it is certain that many, long before the conqueſt, were benefactors to it. Collinſon aſcribes the foundation of it to Athelſtan, others to Ina.—The order was that of St. Benedict.—There is a tradition that the monks cultivated woad in the neighbouring lands.

The road from Langport to Taunton paſſes

* Collinſon's *Hiſt. of Somerſet*, vol. 3, p. 134.

over

over a fine ridge of hills, whence we look down, to the ſouth, on a beautiful country, abounding with rich meadow and wood lands, and forming a delicious picture as far as the eye can reach.—Among the great quantities of timber growing in this part of the country, elm ſeems to be the moſt thriving.—The ſubſtance of the hills is chiefly a blue limeſtone, fit for building. There is alſo the *white lyas*, which is nothing but a calcareous ſtone of the ſame nature as the firſt, though ſometimes it contains foſſil bivalves of the genus *Tellina*, and *Venus*, and other ſorts.—The labourers on the road break ſtone for its repair with an one-handed hammer,—a method which they ſay is more expeditious than the ordinary one of uſing the ſledge-hammer;—and, what has a ſingular appearance, they all *ſit*, like flint-cutters, in the midſt of the rubble. *Somerſet.*

We ſoon came to BURTON-PYNSENT, the ſeat of the Earl of Chatham. To his illuſtrious father, who occaſionally reſided here, the Coun- Burton-Pynſent.

Somerſet. teſs has erected an urn of white marble, with the following inſcription: *viz.*

(On the front of the pedeſtal)

"Sacred to pure affection, this ſimple urn ſtands a witneſs of unceaſing grief for him, who, excelling in whatever is moſt admirable, and adding to the exerciſe of the ſublimeſt virtues the ſweet charm of refined ſentiment and poliſhed wit, by gay and ſocial commerce rendered beyond compariſon happy the courſe of domeſtic life, and beſtowed a felicity inexpreſſible upon her, whoſe faithful love was bleſſed in a pure return, that raiſed her above every other joy but the parental one,—and *that* ſtill ſhared with him. His generous country, with public monuments, has eternized his name. This humble tribute is but to ſoothe the ſorrowing breaſt of private woe."

(On the back)

"To the memory of WILLIAM PITT, EARL of CHATHAM, this marble is inſcribed by Heſter, his beloved wife, 1781."

This elegant and delicate token of conjugal affection

affection ſtands at the end of a narrow walk in the park, ſhaded with laurels, the urn ſupported by a ſquare pedeſtal and ſurrounded by a feſtoon. —In the north-eaſt part of the grounds there is a noble column of white ſtone, one hundred and forty feet high, erected by the late Earl to the memory of Sir William Pynſent. It bears this ſimple inſcription: *viz.* *Somerſet.*

"Sacred to the memory of SIR WILLIAM PYNSENT.
Hoc ſaltem fungar inani munere."

The houſe is a large, irregular building, ſituated on the northern edge of the hills, and overlooking Weſt Sedgemoor, above which the latter riſe, with rather a quick aſcent, four hundred feet nearly. Its principal front is on this ſide, and commands a full proſpect of the flat country between the Mendip and the Quantock hills. Immediately under the eye lies the moor level as a bowling-green, and covered

Somerſet. with the fineſt verdure, to the extent of ſix miles in length, and from one mile to three in breadth, thickly interſperſed with villages, and watered by numerous currents communicating with the Parret and the Tone.—The iſle of Athelney, no leſs famous for the retreat of Alfred during the Daniſh incurſions than the fenns of *Minturnæ* were to the Romans for being the hiding-place of Marius, may be clearly diſtinguiſhed to the north of Burton-Pynſent.

About Wrantage the lyas begins to be mixed with flint and a coarſe grit-ſtone. The main *ſtratum* appears to continue weſtward, in the direction of the ridge above-mentioned, from which our road deſcended to the right about ſeven miles from Taunton.—The profile of the hills on this ſide was now to be ſeen, and as they alternately ſtarted into large knolls and receded into hollows exhibited a fine outline. From a diſtant part of the moors, the coppices and hanging thickets on the declivities have a beau-

beautiful effect. The road brings us down on these moors, the soil of which is deep and rich, producing most exuberant herbage, and affording pasture to innumerable herds of cattle.—Rounded pebbles, (sure testimonies of a soil formed by deposition from some permanent current, or bed of water) are conspicuous at various depths.—An almost uninterrupted flat lies between this and the Severn, bounded westward by the Quantock, and eastward by the Polden, hills. As we approach Taunton, the former begins to assume quite a mountainous aspect.—At length we come to TAUNTON-DEAN, or the vale of Taunton,—an unparalleled picture of fertility :——

Somerset.

Taunton-Dean.

" What ear so empty is that hath not heard the sound
Of Taunton's fruitful Deane ? not match'd by any ground."

DRAYTON.

The soil is a red loam, of which there are no traces east of Langport, but which we did not doubt we should find communicating with the

Somerſet. *ſtratum* that we had followed along the ſouthern coaſt of Devon.

Taunton. TAUNTON is ſo large, well built, and handſome, that it may vie with moſt *cities* in the kingdom, and, as a place of trade and induſtry, perhaps exceeds them all, except London and Briſtol. The woollen manufacture has flouriſhed in this town almoſt ever ſince its introduction into England by the famous John Kempe, the firſt manufactory being eſtabliſhed as early as the year 1336. Upwards of one thouſand looms are ſaid to have been employed here at one time, the number of inhabitants having amounted to twenty thouſand. A large ſilk manufactory was eſtabliſhed about ſixteen years ago.

We could not help remarking the prodigious number of inns and ale-houſes; out of every ten houſes almoſt, there is one that puts out a ſign.—Wherever the lower claſs of people are

are united by a common employment, they acquire ſome common habits, and among thoſe habits the moſt prevalent are ſuch as reſult from the indulgence of ſocial pleaſures. Hence the drunkenneſs ſo frequent in manufacturing towns, and the opportunities offered for the gratification of this pernicious propenſity. It ſeems to be in villages only that we muſt look for temperance and its concomitant health and quietude. The accumulation of manufacturers in one ſpot muſt be lamented as a moſt unfortunate circumſtance for morals, whilſt agriculture and the occupations of rural life tend to ſecure the union of the two great ſprings of political proſperity—induſtry and tranquillity.

Here, as in every place where the woollen manufacture is carried on, the portrait of Biſhop Blaſe, with the comb, is ſeen ſuſpended from a ſign-poſt.—It has been generally imagined that this prelate was the inventor of wool-combing,

Somerſet. and indeed from no other cauſe can one account for his effigies being ſo much reverenced by this claſs of manufacturers. The art, however, muſt have been known before his time, for it is as late as the end of the ſecond (or the beginning of the third) century that we firſt hear of him. He had the biſhopric of Sebaſta, in Cappadocia, as the eccleſiaſtical writers inform us, and ſuffered martyrdom by decapitation, under Diocleſian, after having his fleſh torn with iron combs.—There is no reaſon why we ſhould conclude that theſe inſtruments of torture were uſed on account of the unfortunate biſhop having applied them to the dreſſing of wool.

The right of chuſing members of parliament (enjoyed by this place ever ſince the reign of Edward I.) is veſted in a deſcription of people called *Potwallers*, or *Potwalloners*. Theſe are all ſuch inhabitants as reſide within the limits of the borough, and boil their own pots, provided they are not paupers, and have not received relief

relief from the fund of any charity within a year. *Somerſet.*

There are four principal ſtreets in Taunton, of a moſt commodious width. Of the public edifices, there is no one that will attract the attention, or excite the admiration, of a traveller more than the beautiful church of St. Mary Magdalen. The tower has a ſhape of uncommon elegance, and is one hundred and fifty-three feet in height. It is decorated with florid Gothic ornaments, and crowned with four handſome pinnacles. The body of the church too is on a ſpacious and magnificent ſcale.—St. James's alſo muſt be eſteemed a fine ſtructure. The above two are the only churches in the town, but there are numerous chapels belonging to a variety of religious perſuaſions.—With reſpect to monaſtic eſtabliſhments, Taunton had never more than two, *viz.* a priory for ſecular canons of the order of St. Auguſtine, founded by William Giffard, Biſhop of Wincheſter, about the year 1110, and a houſe of Carmelites, or White-

Somerſet. White-friars, eſtabliſhed by Walter de Meriot, in the reign of Edward III.* A building now uſed as a ſchool-room ſeemed to us to have belonged originally to one or the other of theſe ſocieties. It ſtands near the old gate-way leading to the caſtle.

The caſtle is part of a fine edifice erected by Biſhop Giffard, and ſituated on the weſt ſide of the town. The manor of Taunton has belonged to the Biſhops of Winchester ſince the reign of Ethelward, who made a grant of it to that ſee, and the caſtle was a place of their frequent reſidence. Though this building has been much modernized, the original gate, erected by Biſhop Langton ſtill remains, as well as a part of the porter's lodge. The gate is embattled, and has, in front of it, a ſhield between four roſes, with a croſs charged with five roſes, and this inſcription, *viz.* "1495 *Laus tibi Chriſte T. Langtō*

* Collinſon's *Hiſtory of Somerſet*, vol. 3, p. 236.

Wintō."

Wintō."—This caſtle was diſmantled ſoon after the Reſtoration, and is now uſed for holding the aſſizes, and other public purpoſes. *Somerſet.*

The early part of the hiſtory of Taunton relates chiefly to the affairs of the Biſhops of Wincheſter. As to modern occurrences, the only memorable ones perhaps are thoſe which relate to the proceedings of the Duke of Monmouth, and the cruelties exerciſed upon his adherents by Lord Chief Juſtice Jeffreys and Major-General Kirk.—The Duke's head quarters were eſtabliſhed here very ſoon after his landing, and he had no reaſon to complain of a want of affection in the inhabitants, for they ſolemnly proclaimed him king. After his defeat, Jeffreys was ſent on the weſtern circuit with a ſpecial commiſſion of oyer and terminer to try the inſurgents, attended by Kirk and a body of troops for protection. At Taunton theſe villainous tools of the court committed moſt ſhocking barbarities, and condemned to death, without any attention to the regular forms

Somerſet. forms of law, perſons of all ages and conditions. Father Orleans, who wrote from the mouth of James II. attempts to remove all blame from that infatuated prince two ways. He ſays that he was informed of the illegal proceedings and cruelties of his two officers too late to prevent them; and, in the next place, that he made amends for what had been done, as far as lay in his power, by the general pardon he afterwards granted.—If we reflect for a moment, both theſe excuſes will appear irreconciliable with facts. Upon the ſuppoſition that James was diſpleaſed with his Chief Juſtice, when he was informed of the tranſactions, how happened it that he created him Lord High Chancellor afterwards, and a Baron of the realm? And what atonement could the proclamation of a general pardon be conſidered, when no more rebels were to be found? Beſides, Burnet aſſures us that the king received a regular account of Jeffreys's proceedings every day, and that he read it as conſtantly at his drawing-room, with ſecret delectation,

lectation, to the foreign miniſters and nobility, calling it *Jeffreys's campaign.** *Somerſet.*

After having viſited Wellington, a pretty large market town, on the high road from Taunton to Exeter, we came to Columbton.

DEVONSHIRE

CONTINUED.

The ſoil for ſome miles between Wellington and Columbton is gravelly, and abounds with large, rounded pebbles. A part of it aſſumes a heathy appearance, and yields little by cul-

* Burnet's *Hiſtory of his own Times*, p. 648.

tivation,

Devon. tivation. Towards the latter place we again find the red loam, and its attendant fertility.

Columbton. The ſituation of COLUMBTON is ſingularly agreeable, being ſurrounded by luxuriant ſcenery, and cultivation. Here is a bridge over the Columb, which takes its riſe, apparently, on the Blackdown hills, and joins the EX near the village of Huckſham.

Bradnich. Nearer to Exeter ſtands BRADNICH, at the of a very long, ſteep hill, by the draining foot of which the place is rendered conſtantly wet and muddy. Frequent ſwells, of ſome boldneſs, mark the neighbouring country to the ſouth. The latter proving a continuation of the rich and varied tract that had formed ſo grateful a landſcape to us on our firſt journey, inſpired us with peculiar ſenſations of delight. Our return to this region of fertility ſeemed welcomed by the feathered tribe, for we were chaunted through the woods by a choir of nightingales. Memory too was highly amuſed by endeavouring

to

to recogniſe a particular hill or village as it roſe in the horizon. *Devon.*

The only additional information we obtained on this (our third) viſit at Exeter was, that the manganeſe mine of Upton-Pyne had been filled up, and another opened at Newton St. Cyres, four miles north-weſt from the city. The *matrix* of the ore is the ſame at both places.—A circumſtance relative to the ſoil in the vicinity of the Newton mine deſerves the attention of agriculturiſts:—wherever the refuſe manganeſe has been ſtrewed, the graſs is evidently more ſtrong and luxuriant. Is it not probable that the fertility and richneſs ſo obſervable on the red ſoil in general in the neighbourhood of Exeter is owing to the prevalence of the above ſemi-metal?

CREDITON* being the next point in our *Crediton.*

* Pronounced by contraction *Kirton*.

pro-

Devon. projected progreſs, we purſued the road leading to it from Exeter, which paſſes over ſeveral eminences that afford extenſive views northward. In this direction the country appears crowded with villages, and abounds with corn, paſture, and timber.—Crediton is one of the moſt ancient towns of the county, and was once perhaps one of the moſt reſpectable, having been ſome time an epiſcopal ſee,* and repreſented in parliament.—The old church, Leland ſays, was ſituated on the ſpot now occupied by houſes on one ſide of the preſent burial-ground. There are no more remains of it, nor of the biſhop's palace, than if ſuch buildings had

* When the Chriſtian religion was firſt profeſſed in theſe parts, this county, together with Cornwall, was under the ſpiritual juriſdiction of the Biſhop of Dorcheſter (near Oxford), but that epiſcopal ſeat being removed to Wincheſter, both were made ſubject to the new ſee. As ſoon as the monaſtery of Sherborn was erected into a cathedral, the Biſhop of that place preſided over theſe counties. At length, Plegmund, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, by command of Edward the elder, made three additional ſees, *viz.* Wells, Bodmin, and Tawton. Devonſhire fell under the laſt, which, however, did not long retain its dignity, for, at the death of the ſecond Biſhop, the church of Crediton was made the Cathedral. This happened about the year 910, when Edulph was conſecrated the new dioceſan.

never

never exiſted. The college of prebendaries too has been long ſince diſſolved. Crediton continued to flouriſh, however, until a great fire happened (on the fourteenth of Auguſt, 1743) which deſtroyed upwards of four hundred and fifty houſes. A ſecond fire unfortunately broke out in May, 1772, when the town was reduced ſtill more, ſo that it is now of very ſmall extent.—The church is large and has quite a collegiate appearance. *Devon.*

Continuing our courſe to the north-weſt, we came to Bow,—a moſt wretched place, unable to afford the ſmalleſt accommodation of a decent kind,—and afterwards to NORTH-TAWTON, where the few travellers that paſs may not perhaps apply in vain for a bed; the appearance of this village is infinitely more in its favor than that of the former. Bow. North-Tawton.

A very fertile ſoil runs eaſtward from Bow, and, from its deep red ſurface, is generally diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of the *red land*.

Devon. It is a deep loam, containing a large proportion of clay. Numerous ſtreams pour down upon it from the heights of Dartmoor, which now come in view to the ſouth, and bound the proſpect by a grand naked outline.—The red land is let in many inſtances at as high a price as three pounds *per* acre, but this richer ſoil does not extend more than three miles, at the utmoſt, in breadth.—The growth of timber ſeems to be very little encouraged in this part of the county. We rarely ſaw even a row of elms, though the ſituation ſeems ſo well adapted to them.

About Hunichurch, the country aſſumes a more irregular, heathy, and open aſpect, and the gritſtone, which forms the *baſis* of the loamy ſoil, paſſes into ſiliceous ſlate. After this we ſoon came to an argillaceous ſpecies that extends along the more northern diſtrict of Cornwall. This ſort of ſoil is ſo miſerably unproductive about Stratton and Kilkhampton, that

that four hundred acres of land will not let for eighty pounds. *Devon.*

HATHERLEIGH, a poor mean place, ſtands near a branch of the river Towridge, not far from its confluence with the Oke. I do not know that it is memorable for any thing but the birth of Jaſper Mayne, a dramatic writer and divine of the laſt century.* Hatherleigh.

We heſitated whether we ſhould proceed to Houlſworthy, and thence towards Stratton, and the north-eaſt part of Cornwall, or whether we ſhould advance towards Hartland at once, by way of Torrington and Biddeford. The ſatiſfactory information which we obtained from a very intelligent traveller, whom we accidently met at Hatherleigh, determined us to give up the former route, and to confine our notice to the eaſtern ſide of the Tamar, by purſuing the

* Gough's Camden, vol. 1, p. 39.

Devon. latter. We were perſuaded that we ſhould find no object to intereſt us in return for encountering many inconveniences.

The road to Torrington traverſes frequent hills of ſufficient height to form ſometimes, towards the valleys, good pictureſque materials. Occaſionally we caught the Towridge, or one of its branches, emerging out of a coppice, and winding round the foot of a ſteep precipice patched with furze and brambles, which though humble decorations ſerved to produce a pleaſant relief to the eye.—As we approached Torrington, the face of the country exhibited preferable effects, and the declivities became woodlands; the axe, however, had made much havock in them.—The trunk of many an old oak was covered with ſome of the rarer *Lichenes*. *Lichen plumbeus* and *L. laciniatus* occurred in fructification.—At length, we deſcended a hill of prodigious length and ſteepneſs, and paſſed, at the bottom, a bridge over the Towridge, which, with a handſome clump of trees and the high

J. Alkins fecit
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high ground on the left, conſtituted too pic- *Devon.*
tureſque an object to be paſſed by without delineation.—There was another hill equally long and ſteep in front of us; on the ſummit, and partly along the declivity of it, we perceived TORRINGTON, enjoying a proud, elevated ſite. Torrington.
—A ſpot called the bowling-green, on the ſouth ſide of the town, is an advantageous point for viewing the river, which is here ſeen to flow in a graceful current along a narrow valley, encloſed by grand ſloping ridges. Some of the diſtant precipices are very beautifully wooded.
—We had now a favourable ſpecimen of what we had been led to expect in the ſcenery of North Devon, and were much ſtruck with the ſtrength of outline and feature which the country had begun to aſſume.

Torrington is a very long town, and contains a great number of inhabitants, who are employed principally in the woollen manufacture. It had formerly a caſtle overlooking the river; ſome remains are ſtill viſible. There are two

Devon. churches, one of which is furniſhed with a library.—Margaret, Counteſs of Richmond, (mother of Henry VII.) reſided ſome time in this place, and was a conſiderable benefactreſs to it.

From Torrington we went to Frithelſtoke, to view the remains of its priory, re-paſſing the Towridge by the weſt bridge, which has full as picturesque a poſition as the other, and perhaps, with regard to the more remote ſcenery, much the advantage. More wood preſents itſelf, pendent on broader ſlopes.—As we aſcend towards Frithelſtoke, the river gradually diſappears.

The ruins of the Priory adjoin to the pariſh Frithelſtoke. church of FRITHELSTOKE, and point out the form of the ancient conventual one, beſides which there are the walls of two or three apartments that belonged probably to the prior. The weſt window of the old church continues perfect, fronting what was, to all appearance, once the grand court of the monaſtery, but is now

now a farm-yard. The great gate ſtands in a line with the ſouth wall of the preſent burial ground.—I have not found any record reſpecting this religious houſe except what appears by an inquiſition taken in the fifteenth of Edward I. when the manor of Frithelſtoke is mentioned as being given by Robert Beauchamp to canons of St. Gregory.* This was probably the period of its foundation. *Devon.*

In a paſture eaſt of the church we found *Narciſſus pſeudo-Narciſſus* growing in vaſt profuſion.—The people of the village call theſe plants *Gregories*—a name that ſtruck us on account of its coinciding with the appellation of the order to which the neighbouring monaſtery belonged.

As we deſigned to conclude this day's journey at Biddeford, our route now lay through MONKLEIGH, a mean village, concerning which **Monkleigh.**

* Dugdale's *Monaſticon*, vol. 1, p. 151.

Devon. I know nothing deſerving of mention, except its being the burial place of Sir William Hankford, who was Chief Juſtice of the King's bench in the reign of Henry IV. He is erroneouſly reported to have been the Judge that committed Henry, Prince of Wales, to priſon, and it is ſaid that, being apprehenſive of the diſpleaſure of the latter after his acceſſion to the throne, he retired to a country-ſeat near Monkleigh, where, having given orders to his gamekeeper to ſlay any perſon that entered his park after a certain hour of the night, he was himſelf killed by the man through miſtake. The latter part of the ſtory might probably be true, but it certainly was not Sir William Hankford who preſided in the King's bench on the commitment of Prince Henry. In Stowe* I find *Sir William Gaſcoigne* expreſsly mentioned as being the intrepid Chief Juſtice, who ſo ſignally vindicated the dignity of his court and of the laws

* *Annales of England*, p. 342.

of

of which he was the organ.—I know no hiſtorian that mentions a different perſon. Gaſcoigne was Hankford's immediate predeceſſor. *Devon.*

The river Towridge, when it arrives at Biddeford forms (with the addition of the tide) a very broad ſheet of water; a few miles from this town it meets the Taw, and both fall into Barnſtaple bay. At Braunton the ſands from the northern ſea have been ſo much accumulated, that they extend to an extraordinary depth over a tract of country five or ſix miles in length. They have filled up valleys, and buried trees and hedges, but in one reſpect they may be conſidered as ſerviceable to the country north of Barnſtaple, as they form a ſort of rampart againſt the incurſions of the ſea. There is the additional defence of a ridge of pebbles nearly three miles long, thrown up by the action of the waves.

BIDDEFORD has to boaſt of a noble bridge, a moſt commodious wharf (ſituated in the heart of Biddeford.

Devon. of the town) and a body of water ſufficient to bring up to it veſſels of five hundred tons, except at the ebb tide, when almoſt half the channel of the river is left dry. The bridge conſiſts of twenty-four arches, which were originally all Gothic, but ſome having been in need of repair are now circular. It was built as early as the fourteenth century, being begun by Sir Theobald Granvill. The biſhop of the dioceſe forwarded the work by promiſing indulgences to ſuch as would contribute ſums of money. It is certainly a fine piece of architecture.—From ſtanding quite on a declivity, this town is much cleaner than ſea-ports uſually are, and many of the ſtreets are ſpacious and the abode of opulence. As to the buſineſs of the port, it appears to conſiſt principally in the landing of wool from Ireland, fiſh from Newfoundland, and rock-ſalt (by a preparation of which they cure their herrings) from Liverpool and Warrington. Lime-burning is a conſiderable article of trade at Biddeford, one hundred tons of Welſh limeſtone being often burned in a day. And here is a large

large pottery, the clay of which is brought from Fremington, near Barnſtaple. A *ſtratum* of a fine reddiſh ſort has been worked to the depth of more than twenty feet. It is procured at as eaſy a price as half-a-crown *per* ton. *Devon.*

Whilſt obſerving the method of glazing the inſide of the earthen ware, I could not help ſhuddering at the effects that ſeemed likely to enſue from the practice (ſo prevalent in Devonſhire) of keeping cyder in theſe veſſels. No one can be ignorant that lead is employed to give fuſibility to the glaze before it is poured on the inſide of the pitcher. A liquor like cyder, that quickly becomes acid, is apt to unite with the former, and convey into the *viſcera* of thoſe unfortunate perſons who drink it the ſeeds of diſorders ſo much the more dangerous, as their cauſe is not ſoon ſuſpected. The dreadful complaint called the *Devonſhire colic* is certainly to be attributed to the effects of lead, which, if not *accidentally* diſſolved in the pleaſant liquor ſo plentifully uſed (becauſe ſo plenti-

Devon. plentifully produced) in this county, has been too often *wilfully* mixed with it to impart ſweetneſs and ſofter flavour.* It is to be hoped that this abominable practice is now diſcontinued.

* The acetous acid diſſolving lead acquires quite a ſaccharine taſte, and forms what is called by the chemiſts *ſaccharum ſaturni*, or ſugar of lead. Cyder, wines, and rum are the liquors from which moſt is to be dreaded, when they are put into leaden or earthen glazed veſſels, and the latter cannot be uſed with too much caution for pickles and preſerves.—It is of the higheſt utility to be furniſhed with the means of detecting the ſugar of lead; the following are recommended (in the *Journal de Phyſique*) by M. Hanneman, who aſſures us that the liquor he preſcribes, whilſt it does not precipitate iron, will precipitate lead and copper of a black, and arſenic of an orange colour.—Mix equal parts of oyſter-ſhell and crude ſuphur in fine powder, and put them into a crucible; apply a briſk fire in an air-furnace, ſo as to make the crucible of a white heat for about fifteen minutes. The maſs when cold and reduced to powder ſhoald be kept in a bottle well ſtopped. To prepare the liquor, put one hundred and twenty grains of the above powder, and one hundred and eighty grains of cream of tartar into a very ſtrong bottle, fill it with water, let it boil for an hour, and then cool. Cork the bottle, and frequently ſhake up the ingredients. After it has ſtood ſome hours to ſettle pour off the clear liquor, and put it into little bottles (containing about an ounce), having previouſly dropped into each twenty drops of marine acid. Cork them cloſe by means of wax mixed with a little turpentine. One part of this liquor, with three parts of the wine ſuppoſed to contain the noxious particles, will diſcover by a black precipitate the ſmalleſt quantity of lead, or copper. Pure wines are not diſcoloured by the addition of this liquor.—As the above proceſs, though by no means difficult, is rather tedious, it were to be wiſhed that chemiſts would prepare it for their ſhops.

We

We had no opportunity of going very near to the ſea, on our way to Hartland, until we reached CLOVELLY. Here is a little pier for veſſels, and the harbour is noted for the herring-fiſhery. To the ſouth-eaſt of the village there is a Roman encampment, of three ramparts, which the natives diſtinguiſh by the name of *Clovelly-dikes*. I cannot gueſs at what period it was conſtructed.—Very broad, high cliffs of ſlate overhang the beach. The land, as it juts out into the promontory of Hartland, is by no means remarkable for fertility, nor is it either novel, or varied enough to be pleaſing to the eye. The ſoil is partly loamy, with a red tinge, and partly ſchiſtoſe and rocky. *Devon.* Clovelly.

We diſtinctly ſaw the iſle of Lundy from ſeveral points on the road. Its diſtance from Hartland-point is about four leagues.

HARTLAND has the advantage of a market, but exhibits an air of poverty that depreſſes it to a level with a Corniſh borough. The face Hartland.

of

Devon. of the country ſouthward is perfectly like that of the oppoſite ſide of the Tamar, and the proſpect ends with ſome boggy heights where that river and the Towridge have their ſource. A bleak mountainous ridge ſurrounds the valley to the north-weſt, and entirely intercepts a view of the Severn, which would in ſome meaſure compenſate for the inferiority of the nearer objects.

Hartland Priory. We were very little prepared for the finiſhed ſcenery that opened as we deſcended the road leading to the Priory, which is ſituated in ſo deep a dell that it is overlooked by the eye from Hartland. Every advantage has been taken of the ſpot to create a pictureſque and agreeable ſcene, the ſlopes on each ſide being planted very judiciouſly, and the intermediate lawn opened to a little bridge that croſſes a ſwift, bubbling brook. On the left, as we approach the grounds, there is a charming drive paſſing cloſe under a hanging thicket of great beauty.—In this thicket we obſerved *Lichen vulpinus*

vulpinus adorning with lemon-coloured threads old branches of oak and aſh.—Though built in a monaſtic faſhion, with Gothic windows, the Priory is wholly modern, no remains of the old ſtructure being left. It is at preſent the reſidence of Colonel Orchard. *Devon.*

Camden informs us that the monaſtery of Hartland was founded originally by Githa, wife of the famous Earl Goodwin, in honor of Nectan, a man of a holy character, interred here. By this foundation, the ſociety was made to conſiſt of Canons ſecular, for we find that Richard Arch-deacon of Poitou (who was entruſted with the management of ſome bequeſts made by Geoffry Dynam) *ſubſtituted* regulars of St. Auguſtine.*—How long all traces of the monaſtery have been loſt I cannot diſcover.

Paſſing Hartland church, we climbed the

* Dugdale's *Monaſticon*, vol. 1, p. 148.

heights

Devon. heights that riſe from the ſhore; the laſhes of the waves now became diſtinctly audible, and the vaſt fragments of rock ſcattered around it were ſeen whitened with ſucceſſive ſheets of froth. As far as we could diſcern on either ſide, the cliffs preſented a black flaty front towards the ſea. We remarked afterwards a very ſingular poſition of the broad *laminæ* projecting from this promontory. They meet each other (in ſome places) like the timbers on the roof of a houſe, and diverge from a common line like the down on a quill. Moſt of them, however, underlie to the north-eaſt. They are interſected by veins of white quartz.

Scilla verna (vernal ſquill) and *Cochlearia danica* grow on the ſhore near Hartland-quay.

Hartland-Quay. HARTLAND-QUAY conſiſts of about a dozen decent cottages, and has a commodious little pier, at which commodities of various kinds, for the ſupply of this part of the country, are landed from Biddeford and Barnſtaple; and here

here the fiſhermen and coaſters find good ſhelter againſt the ſouth-weſterly winds, by mooring under the eminences. *Devon.*

In the old authors we find Hartland promontory called *Promontorium Herculis*,—an appellation that originated, according to Dr. Stukely,* from the Tyrian Hercules having arrived here at the head of a colony. The Doctor ſeems to have never been at a loſs to ſupply whatever hiſtory has left either vague or unrecorded, by conjecture. That the Phenicians might have viſited this ſpot, and that they might have named it after the great hero of their nation, is far from being improbable; in ſuppoſing, however, that Hercules himſelf made a voyage to Britain, we ſhould not only *embody* what many learned men have believed to be a mere emblem (denoting the courſe of the ſun through the twelve ſigns of the zodiac), but even, if ſuch a perſonage

* See his *Account of Abury and Stonehenge*, p. 51.

Devon. did ever exiſt, render his life ſtill more marvellous than it has been repreſented by the moſt fabulous writers. He muſt have viſited the *Rock* named after him in Campania; the *Haven*, in Liguria; the *Grove*, in Germany; and the *Promontories* in Mauritania and Galatia, as well as in Britain.—What a traveller!—It is moſt rational to conclude that all theſe ſpots obtained their appellations rather from having been dedicated to, than actually viſited by, the hero, and that his votaries were prompted to pay him particular honors wherever they met with objects of unuſual grandeur, or had been ſucceſsful in exertions of ſtrength and prudence. Our imperfect knowledge of the tranſactions of the Phenicians in Britain, and of the extent of their navigation, may be aſcribed to their jealouſy of the Greeks, from whom they would cautiouſly conceal every thing that could guide them to the ſource of ſo much profit.

Returning through Biddeford, and traverſing a very

a very pleaſing and diverſified country, we came to Barnſtaple. *Devon.*

The river Taw, which takes its riſe on the mountains of Dartmoor, from being joined by the Moul and a great number of brooks, acquires a conſiderable breadth, though as a haven it is become too ſhallow, not being able to ſupport ſhips of more than two hundred tons in burthen. The great increaſe of ſand in its channel occaſions the neighbouring fields being overflowed at ſpring-tides.—Few towns have a more neat and comfortable appearance than BARNSTAPLE. It contains at leaſt four thouſand inhabitants. There are proſperous manufactories of waiſtcoats, ſilk ſtockings, &c. and a variety of articles are exported. A ſtately bridge of ſixteen arches croſſes the river. It was built (Leland ſays) by one of the Tracys, who held the caſtle ſome time. Sir William Tracy, who was concerned in the murder of Arch-biſhop Becket, was probably of this family, for Gibſon tells us that he reſided ſome Barnſtaple.

Devon. years at the village of Mort, in this neighbourhood, and, contrary to the report (propagated by the monkiſh writers) of all the murderers having died within three years, he ſurvived the perpetration of the deed *twenty* three.—None of the works belonging to the caſtle are now to be found, except the mount, which might ſtill ſerve to erect a battery upon, being ſituated on the edge of the river, near its confluence with the North-Ewe.

At this place was educated the learned John Juell, Biſhop of Saliſbury, who wrote the "*Apologia Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ*,"—a work remarkable for its elegant ſtyle, as well as good ſenſe. It is remarkable enough that his great theological antagoniſt Thomas Harding, Profeſſor at Louvain, received his education in the ſame ſchool.*

Mr. Hill, of Barnſtaple, from whom we re-

* Gibſon's Camden, firſt edition, p. 35.

ceived

ceived much information and attention, had the goodneſs to ſhew us ſeveral rare ſubjects of Natural Hiſtory which he had collected in this part of the county. Among theſe was *Aſterias pappoſa (Helianthemoides*, of Pennant) from the bay; ſpecular iron-ore, from near South-Moulton; browniſh carbonate of lead, from Combe-Martin, &c. &c.—I have been informed that baro-ſelenite is found in this neighbourhood, but from the great reſemblance which the lead above-mentioned bears to ſome ſtates of that ſubſtance, in its ponderoſity, colour, &c. I cannot help ſuſpecting that it has been miſtaken for the former, and that the ſuppoſed barytes is no other than a metallic carbonate. I muſt beg leave to repeat, that this is mere *conjecture*.* *Devon.*

* Sign. Sevareſi, a gentleman eminently ſkilled in Mineralogy (whoſe tour in the north of Devon was nearly contemporary with my own) remarked to me that a like miſtake was made with reſpect to a cryſtallized ſubſtance found near Caſtle-hill, which, from a ſimilarity of *externa facies*, has been pronounced a *zeolite*.—Calcareous infiltrations filling the cavities of other ſtones (Mr. Kirwan obſerves) are frequently miſtaken for zeolites.

Devon. The coaſt begins to project, eaſtward of the bay of Barnſtaple, but at length ſweeping round again to the right, it runs pretty ſtrait to the termination of the county, and preſents features of great magnitude and boldneſs about Ilfracombe and Linton. To theſe points we now directed our courſe.

A very barren, unintereſting tract ſoon ſucceeds the cultivation and beauty ſo conſpicuous in the environs of Barnſtaple. Towards Ilfracombe, however, the country aſſumes a very peculiar and diſtorted aſpect, being broken into vaſt knolls, ſteep precipices, and irregular hollows. The nearer we approach the coaſt, the more wild and uncommon is the *contour* of the landſcape, and the road ſeems ſometimes, at a diſtance, ſtopt by tremendous gaps, forbidding any farther progreſs;—at length it winds down an immenſe declivity, and brings us within ſight of Ilfracombe. The fantaſtic effect of the ſurrounding ſcenery is now loſt; its features, which, like the ſtrange diſtortions of a diſtant cloud

cloud, the imagination clothes with ſomething of horridneſs, become ſuddenly melted down into forms more familiar. *Devon.*

The ſituation of ILFRACOMBE is truly romantic, and the neighbouring eminences command a magnificent ſweep of the Briſtol Channel, with the Welſh coaſt beyond. The port is a beautiful natural baſon, ſheltered by craggy heights that are overſpread with foliage. Ships find ſafety here when it is dangerous to run into the mouth of the Taw, and they have the convenience of an excellent pier and quay, which together form three ſides of a ſquare. The town conſiſts chiefly of one ſtreet, full a mile long. It has a neat, healthy appearance, and is ſaid to contain about two thouſand inhabitants.—The church ſtands at the upper part of the town; and there is a chapel, on a ſort of knoll, which may be called St. Michael's Mount in miniature, being joined to the main land only by a narrow neck. On this little mount we have a moſt delightful ſea-view, and by the help Ilfracombe.

Devon. of a teleſcope may diſtinguiſh many of the mountains of Wales. The diſtance of the coaſt of Glamorganſhire is about nine leagues.

Smyrnium Oluſatrum (Alexanders) grows wild under the walls of the chapel, and here we found a ſingular grit, forming the ſubſtance of the rocks, the glittering ſurface of which led us at firſt to imagine that they conſiſted of a fine gneiſs. This grit is extremely hard, and heavy from containing a good deal of iron; its lamellar fracture and the preponderance of the magneſian character in its *externa facies* render it proper to be claſſed among the rocks allied to killas. In fact, the argillaceous ſlate prevailing about Ilfracombe ſeems in many places juſt about to make a tranſition into killas, and we confidently anticipated its appearance in the neighbouring mines.

From a deſire of examining accurately the mineral productions of all this part of the county, before we proceeded to Linton we reſolved

resolved to visit Combe-Martin,—a village surrounded by lodes of iron and lead. We were little aware of other circumstances that render it worthy of notice. *Devon.*

Our road conducted us through a bold, mountainous country abounding with spots most highly picturesque; unless when it dipped into a glen, we had the advantage of the sea in our views, but it was in these glens that the several portions of the landscape arranged themselves with most effect.—A village-church, about a mile from Combe-Martin is situated to peculiar advantage, and overlooks a valley in which the projecting declivities form various fine lines, and become excellent materials for the employment of the pencil.

We found COMBE-MARTIN placed in a dale, along which it extends at least a mile from the sea-shore. The scenery of the latter is really magnificent; its more prominent parts are singularly striking, and have the happiest accompani- **Combe-Martin.**

Devon. paniments imaginable. A well-broken, lofty pile of rocks riſe on one ſide of a little creek, and conſtitute the termination of a ridge deliciouſly wooded towards the village, and anſwered by hills of equal boldneſs oppoſite. From the brows of the rocks hang a few tufts of foliage, ſpared by the rude blaſts of the main; the waves buffet the partial verdure at their baſe. The road winds down by two or three tempeſt-torn cottages, which a painter would conſider ineſtimable, as they are exactly on that part of the precipice where he himſelf would have placed them for the advantage of his picture. It is impoſſible to conceive a ſcene more ſuitable to his ſtudy, but he would have found the tranſferring of it to paper at this time impracticable on account of the boiſterous ſtate of the weather. A heavy rain falling, we ſeated ourſelves in a little grotto oppoſite, where, however, we were as much incommoded by the ſpray of the agitated ſea, as without by the moiſture from the ſky. Yet we could not refrain from gazing with admiration at this grand and well arranged

aſſem-

aſſemblage of objects, the effect of which was in fact heightened by the very circumſtances that were an inconvenience to our perſons, the waves rolling with a terrific rage, and heavy vapours ſpreading a *ſombre* hue as they ſwept over the alpine head-lands.—— *Devon.*

" —— Madidis Notus evolat alis
" Terribilem picea tectus caligine vultum,
" Barba gravis nimbis, canis fluit unda capillis,
" Fronde ſedent nebulæ, rorant pennæque ſinuſque."

VIRGIL.

The ſea enters a little cove at Combe-Martin, commodious for the mooring of ſmall veſſels; and here the produce of the mines is ſhipped for Wales and Briſtol. The manor of this village, Gibſon ſays, in the reign of Henry I. belonged to *Martin* de Tours, a Norman baron, from whom, I gueſs, the latter part of its name muſt have been derived.—There is no curioſity, in the way of antiquities, except an old manor-houſe. This building, by its ruinous aſpect, freſhens the melancholy with which we are accuſtomed to reflect on the decline of the honeſt hoſ-

Devon. hoſpitality of our fore-fathers, and added to the romantic aſpect of the ſcenery around, the ſecluſion of the ſpot, and its remoteneſs from any other ſpectacles than thoſe of purely rural life, awakens emotions that minds of a contemplative turn love to indulge.—The manſion has long been deſerted by its proprietors, and, though ſtill tenanted by a farmer, approaches the laſt ſtage of decay.—This village affords none but the moſt coarſe accommodations,—a circumſtance which we regretted as being likely to deter travellers of more nicety than curioſity or enthuſiaſm from beſtowing on this charming ſpot the attention it might otherwiſe command from them.—The ſoil, though not naturally fertile hereabout, with proper management may be rendered ſo; but the induſtry of the inhabitants has been excited by other views than thoſe of agriculture. In the reign of Edward I. they began to work to advantage the veins of *galena*, rich in ſilver, that run in numerous courſes through the neighbouring hills. Edward III. is ſaid to have derived

great

great benefit from theſe mines during his war with France, as did alſo Henry V. In Elizabeth's time, a very productive lode was diſcovered in the land of a Mr. Roberts, and the ore was refined, with great ſkill, by Sir Beavis Bulmer, a famous metallurgiſt of that age. A cup made with the ſilver was preſented to William, Earl of Bath, having the following quaint inſcription on it: *viz.* *Devon.*

" In Martin's Combe long lay I hid
" Obſcur'd, depreſs'd with groſeſt ſoyle
" Debaſed much with mixed lead
" Till Bulmer came, whoſe ſkill and toyle
" Refined me ſo pure and cleene
" As richer no wher els is ſeene.
" And adding yet a furder grace
" By faſhion he did enable
" Me worthy for to take a place
" To ſerve at any prince's table.
" Combe Martin gave the uſe alone
" Bulmer fyning and faſhion.
Anno noſtræ ſalutis 1593
Reginæ virginis 35
Nobiliſſimo viro Willielmo Comiti Bathon: Locum-tenenti Devoniæ et Oxon."*

* Weſton's MS. quoted in the *Topographer*, vol. 4, p. 185.

The

Devon. The veins of metal about Combe-Martin have a direction (like moſt of thoſe in Cornwall) nearly from eaſt to weſt, underlying towards the ſouth. They appear juſt below the ſurface of the ground, and have therefore been worked with little trouble and at a trifling expence. The *galena* has yielded from twenty to one hundred and ſixty-eight ounces of ſilver *per* ton, the ſame quantity of lead fetching from ſixty to ſeventy pounds. Veins of quartz interſect the killas, (which is of the bluiſh kind,) and theſe are covered with a good deal of brown carbonate of iron and ferrugineous ochre. Following the courſe of a ridge eaſtward of the valley to the ſea, we came to a mine of iron worked on the ſide of the cliffs; this ſpot is called *Hangdown-hill*, and produces a great quantity of argillaceous iron ore. The principal vein is in many places two inches thick, cloſely walled with killas, and nearly of the ſame colour. The captain boaſted of its being equal in richneſs to the Welch iron.—The ground having been thoroughly ranſacked and

and explored near the ſurface, and indeed many yards below it, it can now yield but little lead without deeper workings and the advantage of adits, &c. for draining off water, which would require a conſiderable capital and great encouragements. It has therefore happened that the villagers have now in a manner relinquiſhed their ſubterraneous concerns, but they are ſanguine in their expectations, and anxious for ſome ſpirited exertions being made by the opulent, who ſeem very averſe, in this part of the county, from indulging ſpeculations on mining affairs. *Devon.*

From the many obſervations I have had an opportunity of making on killas, I am induced to think that this ſubſtance is very nearly allied to micaceous rock, and that the latter may be often found imperceptibly paſſing into the former. At Combe-Martin we remarked *laminæ* of blue killas terminating in ſilvery tranſparent edges exactly ſimilar both in texture and appearance to mica; they adhered to quartz. It would

Devon. would have been a gratifying diſcovery to have found this vein (as it conſiſted of two of the conſtituent parts of granite) communicating with ſome granitic rocks, but none of the latter appear north of Dartmoor. The killas terminates towards South-Moulton, and likewiſe weſtward, in argillaceous ſlate, and is bounded to the eaſt by mountains of another nature, as I ſhall explain preſently.

Our progreſs to Linton had been interrupted by the various objects of curioſity that preſented themſelves at Combe-Martin, but in being retarded ſome time by ſuch circumſtances, we could not help conſidering our main views much forwarded. Bidding adieu to this romantic village, we ſet out at length for Linton, not expecting a ſuperior grandeur in the ſcenery on this ride.

The ruggedneſs and undulations of the roads in North Devon hitherto had not intimidated us, and we had retained our ſeats on our horſes

in

in tolerable ſecurity. Now it began to appear prudent to truſt to none but our own legs. In deſcending into the glens with which the country is here furrowed to a frightful depth, a traveller would be diſtruſtful even of a Welſh poney.—Between Combe-Martin and Linton the mountains exhibit an outline of much ſublimity, and aſſume poſitions extremely pictureſque. *Devon.*

There is a very remarkable glen about five miles from the former of the above mentioned villages. The road, juſt after leaving a little hamlet, winds down with great ſteepneſs into a very rocky, narrow paſs, flanked by enormous ſwells, which are deſtitute of verdure and have an uniformly craggy ſurface, as if the earth had juſt yawned, and time had not aſſiſted the efforts of vegetation. The want of wood we do not here lament, for the ſcene has dignity enough to ſupport itſelf without it. At the interſection of another paſs with the former, the ſimple decoration of a ſingle clump of trees produces as much relief as could be wiſhed for. A rapid brook

Devon. rolls through the valley under a bridge placed and conſtructed on purpoſe almoſt, one would imagine, to render the combination of objects for a picture complete, for, with the trees, it forms an admirable fore-ground, and it is backed by acclivities which open to the Severn with the grandeſt effect.

Still proceeding along chaſm-like hollows, we at length began to aſcend, and came to ſome elevated ground, whence we perceived rocky precipices at a diſtance, towards the ſea, thickly clothed with wood. We had no idea that our road would ſoon turn ſuddenly to the left, and conduct us through this beautiful covert. From the ſummit to the bottom the mountains were overſpread with oak, the branches below almoſt bathing in the briny current of the Severn. Their brows were at too great a diſtance above us to be ſeen through the foliage; in looking downwards to the ſhore, our apparent height above the main was increaſed by the occaſional projection of the rocks, ſo that imagi-

nation

nation had its full ſcope in the contemplation of this uncommon ſcenery. Every ſtep was quite on romantic ground. New features, new embelliſhments, new combinations continually roſe into view.—Our rapture rendered us inſenſible to fatigue, though we had long been obliged to follow on foot a devious, indiſtinct tract that now ſunk with terrific ſteepneſs, now aſcended with an almoſt inſurmountable perpendicularity. If the reader would form ſome idea of its *ruggedneſs*, let him figure to himſelf the pavement of a ſtreet torn up by a plough, and the largeſt fragments of ſtone that are uſed retaining an erect poſition.—At length, wood and foliage vaniſhed entirely, and a ſcene ſurpriſingly groteſque and wild unfolded it,—a valley, bounded by large naked rocks, or rather fragments of rocks, piled one upon another. The heights on each ſide were of a mountainous magnitude, but compoſed, to all appearance, of looſe unequal maſſes, which form here and there rude natural columns, and are fantaſtically arranged along the ſummits ſo as to reſemble extenſive

Devon.

Devon. ruins impending over the pafs. Vaft fragments overfpread the valley, and, which way foever we turned our eyes, awful veftiges of convulfion and defolation prefented themfelves, infpiring the moft fublime ideas.—An old man, mounted on a mule, who paffed us and obferved our filent wonder, announced to us that we were in the VALLEY OF STONES.

Valley of Stones.

Advancing into this extraordinary valley, we had a grand view of the Severn through an abrupt opening in the rocks. Taking a retrofpect, we caught one of the hills we had paffed retiring behind the mountains to the fouth, but ftill fhewing its conical, wood-encircled fummit with the moft happy effect.—A fort of natural pillar prefently attracted our notice, mantled venerably with ivy and mofs, and thrufting itfelf forward from the fteep with a bold perpendicularity. Surely, we exclaimed, this muft be the work of human hands, which have thus piled thefe huge rocks on each other for fome purpofe of fuperftition;—the folemnity of the fituation

perhaps

perhaps appeared to the *Druids* well ſuited to the objects of their ſacred ceremonies! On cloſer inſpection, however, we were compelled to aſcribe the architecture to nature alone, for none but herſelf could have placed the maſſes ſo as to preſerve the direction of the grain throughout in ſuch a perfect paralleliſm, or joined them with ſuch nicety. As ſhe is often fantaſtic in her workmanſhip, there is no reaſon why, at the time of ſome great convulſion, ſhe ſhould have not erected regular columns and groupes of rocks in the Valley of Stones as well as among the granite hills of Cornwall, or in the baſaltic cave of Fingal.—As we proceeded, the acclivities gradually became leſs broken and craggy, and at laſt aſſumed an aſpect rather verdant and compoſed. Immenſe blocks of ſtone, however, ſtill covered the valley. Diſtance ſometimes almoſt impoſed on our judgment, and we were often about to attribute the groteſque arrangements we witneſſed to the efforts of art, but attentive obſervation always brought us back to a different concluſion; partially counterfeit- *Devon.*

Devon. ing deſign, as if to ſport with her ſpectators, nature confeſſed in a wanton eccentricity that the diſtribution was all her own.—Traces of cultivation and human induſtry now obtruded themſelves through the broad gap of the valley, and expelled thoſe pleaſing ideas of ſolitude and ſecluſion which the primæval wildneſs and ſilence of theſe ſublime ſcenes had at firſt inſpired. Our attention, engroſſed by the novelty of their effect, had not yet been employed on an examination of the nature and compoſition of the rocks, of which, inſtead of dwelling on what words can but very faintly delineate, it is now time that I ſhould make ſome mention. They conſiſt of a fine-grained argillaceous grit, of a lamellar fracture, and in ſome inſtances friable and looſe-textured. The colour is internally a bluiſh grey, and minute particles of mica may be diſtinguiſhed throughout the maſs; the latter varies extremely both in ſize and ſhape.—The length of the valley I imagine to be nearly a mile. In width, towards the village of Linton, (which is ſituated near its eaſtern extremity) it meaſures

meaſures full three hundred feet, but not ſo much at the oppoſite end, where the gap is very evidently narrower. The firſt idea that offers itſelf, in ſpeculating on the origin of this extraordinary paſs, is that it muſt have been the courſe of a vaſt and violent torrent, which, from the broad openings towards the ſea, and the more craggy, torn ſurface of the mountains, would ſeem to have poured itſelf into the Severn at the weſtern extremity.—Conjecture has great ſcope whenever a ſcene occurs ſo novel and ſtriking as the Valley of Stones.—We love to account, if only in imagination, for the ſeveral aſpects of nature, but in our eagerneſs to diſencumber ourſelves of one difficulty, we generally precipitate ourſelves into another.—Whence came this mighty torrent? And by what proceſs were theſe fragments, if even proved to be thus diſlodged by a torrent, piled on each other antecedently? Again, by what (ſtill earlier) operation, were their conſtituent particles of argill and mica blended together? *Devon.*

Devon. Thus are we perplexed the more we meditate on the myſterious volume of the creation.

We endeavoured to trace the ſeveral ſteps by which vegetation has advanced in this valley. Many maſſes of rock once expoſed to view are now wholly clothed with turf; others are juſt acquiring a veſtment of moſs; whilſt others manifeſt only faint ſigns of incipient organization. We may form ſome notion of the ſucceſſion in which one tribe of vegetable bodies become ſubſervient, by the regulated ſeaſon of their decay, to the exiſtence and ſupport of another.—On *this* rock we perceive *Lichen geographicus*, *L. niger*, *Byſſus antiquitatis*, and others of the cruſtaceous, or leſs perfect, diviſion of plants unmoleſted in their habitations;—but preſently, on another maſs, *L. ſaxatilis*, *nigreſcens*, and *fragilis* become intruders on the former. In another place theſe are decompoſing, and conſtitute a *pabulum*, or mould for two or three *ſpecies* of *Bryum*, *Lichen uncialis*, *pyxidatus*, and other plants of this rank.

Here

Here again we find further effects of decompoſition, and a thin ſoil prepared for the reception of a *Hypnum*, or of a little graſs, or laſtly, of the more evidently organized *Erica*.—As I amuſed myſelf with theſe obſervations, and remarked the great prevalence of ſome *ſpecies* of *Lichen* and the total abſence of others, I was led to reflect on the aid that this curious tribe of vegetables affords to mineralogy.—The moſt abundant plant, by far, was *L. geographicus*; *L. lacteus*, *niger*, *Æderi*, *tartareus*, and *fragilis* were frequent; but ſcarcely any ſpecimens of the common yellow liverwort (*L. parietinus*) were to be found. This circumſtance would alone have been ſufficient to ſhew that the compoſition of the rock was of a peculiar kind.—*L. calcareus* and *Byſſus ſaxatilis* being partial to limeſtone, wherever that ſtone occurs amongſt others it may at once be diſtinguiſhed, by theſe *ſpecies* adhering to it; *L. cæſius* and *cupularis* are known to abound only on ſlate mountains; *L. furfuraceus* ſeems to prefer granite; and many others might be pointed out, equally nice with regard

Devon.

Devon. regard to their place of abode.—Sudden variations then in the compoſition of rocks may often be diſcovered at merely a glance, by becoming acquainted with their more obvious vegetable inhabitants.

Linton is ſurrounded by romantic, bold, and delightful ſcenery.—Our attention was particularly arreſted as we proceeded towards Porlock. A path commencing near the church, and winding down a mountain with a zig-zag, but
Linmouth. precipitous courſe, conducted us to LINMOUTH. Here the mountain exhibited a finely broken flank, clad with bruſhwood, and fretted by many a rapid caſcade;—but its effect was exceeded by that of another eminence on the oppoſite ſide of the little river Lin, eſpecially when viewed in conjunction with the neighbouring objects. Among the moſt conſpicuous and pictureſque of theſe objects was a bridge of two arches placed at its baſe and croſſing a beautiful brook that comes, bounding over maſſes of rock, down a dark glen, and, after preſſing through the

the interſtices of ſome larger fragments covered with moſs, is preſently loſt in the main. Craggy heights, rendered partially verdant by ſtunted ſhrubs and ſcanty herbage, occupied the ſpace on our right, the waves of the Severn approaching on the left, as if in order to render a ſcene that would not ſeem ſuſceptible of additional embelliſhments dependent on itſelf for a portion of dignity. *Devon.*

Quitting with regret the little ſequeſtered village of Linmouth,—a village rivalled in ſituation by few places even of the oppoſite more celebrated ſhore,—we were obliged to climb the mountain that made ſo proud an object in our landſcape, and in our toil paid dearly for the pleaſure afforded us by its picturesque grandeur. When we had gained the ſummit, however, we were fully reconciled to the demands made on our breath and ſtrength, by the vaſt azure expanſe, the crowd of towering hills beyond it, and the tremendous rocky ſlopes beneath us that now came in view. To contemplate

Devon. template the precipice, indeed, was to ſhudder, there being an uninterrupted deſcent towards the ſea of at leaſt twelve hundred feet.—The perfect inſipidity that we afterwards witneſſed on our road was, on the whole, advantageous, conſidered as a contraſt, to the ſcenery in the vicinity of Porlock, which, if it had immediately ſucceeded the beauties of Linmouth, we might not have gazed at with ſo much emotion.

SOMERSETSHIRE

CONTINUED.

East-Porlock. JUST within the boundaries of this county, and about two miles from the coaſt ſtands EAST-PORLOCK, a ſmall market-town, frequented only as being on the high road to Minehead

and

and the little port of Weſt-Porlock. The ſpire of the church ſeems at a diſtance as if it had been deprived of its point by a hurricane or ſome ſuch accident, but, the fact is, its obtuſeneſs was a part of the original deſign, and might, in the imagination of the architect, have been conſidered as an elegance. *Somerſet.*

WEST-PORLOCK has a quay and pier; lime and coal are landed here from Wales, and ſeveral articles from other places.—This village is ſituated at the corner of a beautiful bay terminating a ſort of ſemicircular area, which is almoſt entirely encloſed by hills, and ſmiles with verdure and cultivation. Boſſington-point, forming the eaſtern and oppoſite corner, preſents a grand ſcene of craggy rocks, ſome torn from the main land, others hollowed into caverns by frequent tempeſts, and the reſt elevating themſelves in the boldeſt manner to the height of full three hundred feet.—On the eminences above the village there are hanging woods of beech, oak, and elm, which, with the crags peeping above Weſt-Porlock.

Somerſet. above the foliage, have an uncommon richneſs and luxuriance of effect. Stretching along the mountains that ſlope towards the Severn, and encircling their feet as well as their brows, this continued thicket tempted us to ramble through the ſhady mazes, in ſearch of their botanical produce. The ſeaſon not being ſufficiently advanced for bringing many of the more perfect plants into fructification, we were occupied chiefly by the cryptogamous claſs, and obſerved ſeveral *ſpecies* that deſerve (at leaſt in this diſtrict) to be ranked among the rarer ones, ſuch as *Bryum verticillatum*, *Hypnum compreſſum*, *Lichen cochleatus*, *ſcrobiculatus*, and *apthoſus*.—A path not more than two feet wide, winding in a zigzag manner along the declivities, and continually interrupted by projections of rock and roots of trees brought

Cullbone. us to the romantic village of CULLBONE. Here our admiration was excited more than ever.—This village ſtands in a narrow cove, or receſs about four hundred feet above the level of the ſea, which preſenting itſelf in front, with the mountains of Wales (now become more diſtinct)

in

in the horizon, whilſt exuberant tufts of beech, poplar, and mountain-aſh, mingled together with the moſt wanton variety, wave from the rocky amphitheatre above, the ſpectacle exhibits beauty and ſublimity united, to a ſurpriſing and enchanting degree. During ſome months in the year, the ſun ſheds but a tranſitory beam on this ſequeſtered ſpot, being hid by the ſurrounding heights, and the quiet of the few ſecluded cottagers who have their abodes here is rarely interrupted but by the murmur of the billows, or the voices of the feathered tenants of the woods. —What a ſweet train of peaceful, yet elevated ideas ſuch ſcenes will naturally excite! Theſe are the objects which captivate the contemplative man. When recalled to the portal of that wide manſion where "the buſy hum" of the more active part of his ſpecies is heard, it is not to be wondered at if he ſhould often look back with emotions of regret and tenderneſs to the ſerenity of nature. On the other hand he who has been involved, during a long period, in the multifarious cares, and inquietudes, and contentions

Somerſet.

Somerſet. tentions of life, will be incapable of feeling the refined ſenſations, which the former foſters with ſo much ardor, nor will he

> " —— exempt from public haunts,
> " Find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
> " Sermons in ſtones, and good in every thing."

The road to Minehead lies between ſeveral noble eminences, the ſteep ſides of which are either ornamented with broad patches of wood, or covered with excellent herbage for ſheep. The vallies are ſingularly fertile, being overſpread with a ſtrong deep ſoil, and moiſtened by numerous rivulets. A bold hill called *Dunkery-beacon*, on the right, continues conſpicuous a long way, a mountainous ridge, which intercepts a view of the ſea, extending towards Minehead on the left.

Minehead. MINEHEAD is a borough and ſea-port town, of a ſhape ſomewhat triangular, one part of it being ſituated on the eaſtern ſlope of a vaſt hill called *Minehead-point*; the quay lies under the brow

brow of the latter, which rises to the height of six or seven hundred feet, and is cultivated on the land side quite to the top.—A great trade was once carried on between the Straits and this place, and there were also extensive concerns with the West-Indies. At the beginning of the present century I find that upwards of four thousand barrels of herrings were generally shipped here annually. The herring-fishery is now, however, nearly at an end, the fish having in a manner deserted this coast. To what cause this alteration in the course of their migrations is to be ascribed it is difficult to determine, but their caprice with respect to their haunts is very remarkable. Mr. Pennant informs us that they deserted for some years the coasts of Cardiganshire, and frequented those of Caermarthenshire and Flintshire.* The principal trade of Minehead at present consists in the importation of wool from Ireland and coal

Somerset.

* *British Zoology*, vol. 3, p. 336.

Somerſet. from Wales. With regard to exports, oak-bark and grain have been the chief articles. The population of the town ſeems to have decreaſed with its trade, and it has ſuffered from no leſs than three dreadful fires. Ruins of houſes are frequent; many entire ones too appear to be uninhabited.—The church ſtands in a very elevated ſituation, commanding a fine diverſified proſpect to the ſouth-eaſt, and is a large ſtructure, with an embattled tower ninety feet in height. Here lie the aſhes of the celebrated Henry Bracton, whoſe mutilated effigies may be ſeen on the north ſide of the chancel under a ſort of ſhrine, which has been much damaged. He is repreſented on the tomb in his judge's robes, but we could diſcover no inſcription.

A grand range of lofty hills, running from Minehead towards Old-Cleeve, and the beautiful, rich vale ſtretching between them and the Severn contribute to render the ſituation of

Dunſter Caſtle. DUNSTER CASTLE particularly pleaſing. The latter

latter we were anxious to viſit, and had certainly no reaſon to regret taking up our abode at the neat town from which it takes its name. Standing on a ſteep knoll, which commands a view of the whole valley and the ſea beyond, this caſtle has an air of grandeur that we are accuſtomed to look for in every ſtructure of this nature, but frequently find wanting. Its form is oblong. There is a gate-houſe apart from the body of the building, the intermediate ſpace being a terrace bounded each way by an embattled parapet, and having at one corner an ancient turret, which is probably a part of the original caſtle, erected by Sir William de Mohun. The Mohuns were a family of the firſt note, from the time of the Conqueror (who beſtowed on them this manor) to the reign of Edward III. when the male line became extinct, and their eſtates in theſe parts came into the poſſeſſion of Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, of Chilton, in Devonſhire. Sir Hugh Luttrell, who attended Henry V. in his French war, was the ſon of this lady, and the caſtle has been from that period the reſidence of *Somerſet.*

Somerſet. his poſterity.* The preſent building indeed, from the ſtyle, cannot be of an earlier date than Elizabeth's reign. With regard to its military hiſtory, I do not find that any remarkable event occurred here until the time of Charles I. when it was taken poſſeſſion of by the Marquis of Hertford, Taunton and Bridgewater alſo having juſt then fallen into the hands of the Royaliſts. Francis Wyndham, who commanded under the Marquis, and was dexterous enough to bring about the ſurrender without much bloodſhed, was appointed Governor.†

The famous William Prynne was ſome time confined in Dunſter Caſtle, by a warrant from Preſident Bradſhaw. Whether he employed himſelf in writing here, as he did in the other places where he was impriſoned, I cannot learn, but, by Wood's account, this itch was a never-

* The preſent poſſeſſor is John Fownes Luttrell, Eſq.

† Clarendon's *Hiſtory of the Rebellion*, vol. 3, p. 276.

failing

failing reſource to him, and from the aſtoniſhing bulk of his works, one would think (as our antiquary ſays) that he muſt have written a ſheet every day of his life. Hudibras, however, is rather ſarcaſtic on the ſubject of his genius, and would induce us by the following lines to conclude that this peerleſs ſcribbler loved his pot as much as his pen.—— *Somerſet.*

> " Thou that with ale or viler liquors
> Did'ſt inſpire Wythers, *Prynne*, and Vicars,
> And teach, though it were in deſpighte
> Of nature and the ſtars, to write,"—&c.*

Near Dunſter church, which is ſituated in a hollow between the caſtle and the town, there was formerly a priory, founded by Sir William de Mohun, and annexed as a cell to the Abbey of St. Peter at Bath, being filled with Benedictine monks.† Some remains of this

* Needham ſays that Prynne was " one of the greateſt paper-worms that ever crept into a cloſet." Another writer tells us that " his ſtudy and reading was not only a weariſomneſs to the fleſh but to the ears."

Wood's Athenæ Oxon. vol. 2, p. 438.

† Collinſon's *Hiſtory of Somerſet*, vol. 2, p. 16.

Somerſet. building may be diſcovered on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the church-yard.

It muſt have been often remarked that the churches in Somerſetſhire are in general more handſome and more modern than we often ſee in other counties; ſome of my readers perhaps, may not be aware to what this circumſtance is to be attributed. During the calamitous contentions between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, this county manifeſted a very zealous attachment to the latter, and won to ſuch a degree the gratitude of Henry VII. that, as ſoon as he mounted the throne, among other ſignal marks of royal favor, he built a great number of churches for the natives. The Gothic order began to aſſume about this period a very florid ſtyle; hence the ornamental finiſhing ſo conſpicuous on the towers of the new fabrics. Biſhop's Huiſh church I have before particularized on account of its elegance and elaborate workmanſhip, and another remarkable example of the decorated

decorated architecture of this reign is the church of Dunſter, which is large and lofty, and has a ſtrong, handſome tower riſing from the centre. It is a curious circumſtance that the monks and the pariſhoners could not agree well enough to make uſe of the ſame part of the building for their religious ſervices, the former having had the eaſtern half for their quire, and the vicar the weſtern. This diviſion took place in the year 1499, and ſince the Diſſolution no uſe whatever has been made of the conventual part, which contains ſeveral monuments and atchievements belonging to the Mohuns and Luttrells. *Somerſet.*

Eaſtward from Dunſter there is a very lofty hill, or beacon, with a proſpect-houſe on the top built by Mr. Luttrell. Evident traces of an entrenchment may be obſerved on the north-weſt ſide, and I think it is highly probable that this ſpot was the ſite of the old fortreſs ſaid to have been erected near Dunſter by one of the

Somerſet. Weſt-Saxon kings.* The preſent ruins are artificial, but (even at a ſhort diſtance) very likely to be miſtaken for real.

Unwilling to omit any relics of antiquity, eſpecially when we knew them to be contiguous to other objects of our purſuit, we reſolved to viſit the village of Old Cleeve, remarkable for the remains of an abbey. We kept the Watchett road ſome time, by which means we did not yet loſe ſight of Dunſter Caſtle. We caught it in various points of view, and with various accompaniments, which in general were very pictureſque. The flag waving from the battlements overtopped the ſurrounding foliage for ſome miles. Our road brought us at laſt to the beach, which is perfectly flat and ſandy to a conſiderable diſtance from Minehead, and, from the adjoining lands being frequently overflowed by the ſea, the paſtures here

* In Domeſday book I find Dunſter called *Torre*; this appellation evidently originated from the hill abovementioned.

exhibit

exhibit a moſt exuberant aſpect. The tide ebbs almoſt a mile below high-water mark. *Somerſet.*

We now deſerted the Watchett turnpike, and a circuitous track, touching at ſeveral little hamlets, at laſt brought us to the ABBEY. The ſoil in the vicinity is ſo fertile that, in the old charters and writings, this ſpot is denominated *Vallis florida*, or the flowery valley. It was certainly well calculated for a religious retirement, and enough remains to prove that the abbey itſelf was not without great commodiouſneſs, and even magnificence. The buildings formed a quadrangle, three ſides of which are ſtill perfect. There are no veſtiges of the north ſide, but I conceive that the chapel muſt have ſtood here; the ſite is at preſent occupied by a ſhed for horſes and cows. To the ſouth ſtands the refectory, which may even now be called a noble room, though it is converted into a granary. It has a fine oak roof, adorned with various kinds of figures and emblems. The abbot's apartments occupied the eaſtern ſide, and oppoſite Cleeve Abbey.

Somerſet. oppoſite to them, on the weſt, were the cells of the monks, now become ſtables, &c. to the adjoining farm-houſe. In the abbey-court are a few trees, which by their age and *ſombre* effect increaſe the venerable air of theſe monaſtic walls. The whole ſeems to have been originally ſurrounded by a moat, and the entrance into the court was under a large, handſome gate, ornamented with niches, and inſcribed with ſentences from ſacred writ. In front is ſeen an image of the Virgin and child, to whom perhaps this abbey was dedicated. The monks were of the Ciſtercian order, their founder being William de Romara, to whom the manor of Old Cleeve belonged. Hugh, Abbot of St. Lawrence at Reveſby, was entruſted with the regulation of the ſociety.—In the year 1297 it appears that there were no leſs than twenty-ſix monks in Cleeve Abbey, the opulence of which muſt have been very great, for it enjoyed the whole of the founder's extenſive eſtates.* At the Diſſo-

* Stevens's Dugdale, vol. 1, p. 66.

lution

lution, the manor of Old Cleeve was granted to the Earl of Suſſex; it is at preſent the property of Sir James Langham, of Cotteſbrooke, in Northamptonſhire, Bart. *Somerſet.*

We were deſirous of marking the firſt appearance of limeſtone; to the commencement of this ſoil we gueſſed we muſt be now approaching. At WATCHETT narrow *ſtrata* of a greyiſh blue ſpecies (nearly allied to that of Aberthaw, in Glamorganſhire) are to be traced in the cliffs. They incline to the north-eaſt, and run through a red marl, which prevails along the coaſt two or three miles, though not far to the *eaſt* of this town. A great number of *ammonitæ* are imbedded in the limeſtone, as at Lyme,* in Dorſetſhire, and we may conceive the ſtratification of that ſubſtance to have depended on ſimilar cauſes at both of theſe places:—calcareous matter ſeems to have oozed, as it were, from the marl. There is an evident example of it Watchett.

* See page 76, vol. 1.

in

Somerſet. in the formation of alabaſter along the Watchett cliffs, where are little grots entirely walled with this beautiful ſtone, which may be ſeen draining, almoſt under one's eyes, and concreting into large ſlabs on the ſhore.*

* The ſpecies of limeſtone deſcribed above contains a bluiſh clay, (which reddens when calcined) and a few ſhining particles. Smeaton could not find any other ſtone that would anſwer his purpoſe ſo well, when he was building the Edyſtone light-houſe, and for this reaſon, —being what architects call a *meagre* limeſtone, it takes up but little ſand yet forms a harder mortar even in water. He diſcovered indeed that all ſtone which gave a buff-coloured lime had this effect, for inſtance that from Barrow, in this county, and what is dug at Lyme. It is only the *fat* ſort (or that which being converted into lime takes up the *greateſt* quantity of ſand) that makes good manure.—A mixture of Watchett limeſtone with a large proportion of *puzzolana* becomes indurated in water almoſt immediately,—a circumſtance which Mr. Kirwan attributes to the magnetic ſtate of the iron contained in the latter, for this iron not being oxydated, yet diſperſed throughout the maſs, and thus offering a large ſurface, quickly decompoſes the water with which it is mixed when made into mortar, and forms a hard ſubſtance analogous to the ſpecular iron-ore. The ſame effect appears in the iron tubes wherein water is decompoſed, in Lavoiſier's experiments. (See his *Traite' de Chimie*, tom. 1, p. 93.) One grand uſe of the lime perhaps is to heat the water, which when cold has not acceſs ſo readily to the particles of iron encloſed in the compact argill. Dr. Higgins remarks, in his *Treatiſe on Cements*, that if the mortar be long expoſed to the influence of the atmoſphere, fixed as well as pure air will unite with the iron and, by forming ruſt, prevent the maſs from hardening.

The

The town of Watchett is a poor ſhabby place, and its only trade is the freightage of limeſtone, alabaſter, and kelp. There is a commodious, ſtrong pier that was erected chiefly under the inſpection of Sir William Wyndham, Bart. Sir William was Secretary at War, and afterwards Chancellor of the Exchequer, under Queen Anne. *Somerſet.*

Laver (*Ulva Lactuca*) grows in prodigious quantities along this coaſt, and is collected by the neighbouring peaſantry, in order to be ſent to diſtant parts of the country in earthen pots. When boiled with vinegar and ſalt, it makes a pleaſant pickle.

Purſuing the road to Bridgwater over the Quantock hills, we obtained proſpects of amazing extent and variety. To the north was the Severn ſea, with ſeveral objects in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth diſtinctly viſible; to the eaſt and ſouth the country ſeemed ſpread out like a vaſt map beneath us, ſtudded with innumerable

Somerſet. numerable towns and villages, clothed with wide woods, and enamelled with paſtures and corn fields in a boundleſs ſucceſſion. The fecundity of this diſtrict creates aſtoniſhment and delight in the ſpectator; whilſt his eyes ramble over ſo ſmiling a ſcene, and he contemplates the produce of this rich ſoil and propitious climate, his ſpirits bound with cheerfulneſs, and his heart offers involuntary incenſe of gratitude to the ever active energies of nature. The Quantock hills riſe gradually from the coaſt a few miles eaſtward from Watchett, and ſtretch in a ſouth-eaſt direction almoſt to Taunton. Their ſubſtance is a coarſe kind of compound gritſtone. The hills about Linton and Minehead, Dunkery beacon, and other mountainous eminences in this part of the country, afford a ſimilar ſpecies, with ſome traces, occaſionally, of killas. This latter ſubſtance may be obſerved to prevail about Porlock, and alſo near Over-Stowey.*

* Here the ground has been opened for mining, and a vein of copper has been worked.

On

Somerſet.

On all the above-mentioned hills the vegetable mould is extremely ſhallow, and the hard ſtone lies immediately under it, but as ſoon as we deſcend to the lower grounds, we find a red loam, which forms a conſiderable bed over the gritſtone; in this inſtance, the gritſtone exhibits leſs appearance of decompoſition, and is conſequently more compact.*

Over-Stowey.

Cannington.

After leaving the Quantock hills, the road winds conſiderably to the right, and paſſes through OVER-STOWEY, a neat, pleaſant town, in a highly agreeable country.—It then conducts us through CANNINGTON, where we noticed a fine old manſion (now going to decay) called the *Court Houſe*, which, with the manor, belongs to Lord Clifford, of Chudleigh. There was formerly a Nunnery in this village, founded by Robert de Courcy, about the year 1140. The church belonged to it, and is (to uſe

* Other remarks on the ſubject of the gritſtone and red loam of Devon and Somerſet may be found in vol. 1, p. 85.

Leland's

Somerſet. Leland's own words) "*very fair and well adorned.*"

Bridgwater. BRIDGWATER* ſtands on the banks of the Parret; from this river, which is navigable for veſſels of much more than one hundred tons in burthen, it derives great profits. The articles imported are chiefly timber and coal. A lofty bridge of three arches has remained here ever ſince the time of King John, though a new one is now building, the former being too narrow, and too ancient not to ſtand in need of frequent repairs.—This town is large and populous, and has quite a commercial air, but its extent and conſequence were much greater before the wars between Charles I. and the Parliament. The forces belonging to the latter having beſieged it under Sir Thomas Fairfax, they reduced no

* It is natural to imagine that the name of this town is derived from the *bridge*. The old hiſtories of it, however, inform us that the original appellation was *Burgh-Walter*, or Walter's borough, from Walter de Douay, to whom the manor was given at the conqueſt:—the corruption of this name into *Bridgwater* was eaſy enough.

ſmall

small part of it to ashes. It was on this occasion that the castle, though very strong and regularly fortified, was so far demolished that few vestiges of it are now observable.* The *ballium* is at present a timber-yard, which, being on the eastern side of the river, is the only guide to the exact site of the building.—*Castle-field* is memorable for being the place where the Duke of Monmouth encamped, before the battle of Sedgemoor.—At no town, in the west of England, perhaps, are provisions of every kind in greater profusion than at Bridgwater. The markets are supplied from the neighbouring moors, which feed an incredible number of cattle, and are the source of all the various luxuries afforded by the dairies. *Somerset.*

The moors occupy a great portion of the county of Somerset, and constitute a striking peculiarity in the face of it. The main tract of

* Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion*, vol. 4, p. 678.

Somerſet. this kind of land is encloſed between the river Parret and the Mendip hills, though here is not an uninterrupted flat, the Polden hills and other eminences of inferior note rearing themſelves in the midſt of it;—Brent and Glaſtonbury torrs are very remarkable protuberances. There is ſcarcely any *bottom* to be found in ſome places, and, in digging, trees are often met with, many even ſtanding erect and not diſlodged from their original poſition. It has been remarked (and this is a curious fact) that moſt of thoſe which have been found under the ſouth-weſt ridge of Mendip lie with their branches pointed in that direction. What may have been obſerved to be the general poſture of the multitudes dug up about Bridgwater I am ignorant,—indeed I believe they lie in all directions;—but the circumſtance above-mentioned is ſufficient to ſhew that they owe their *interment* to a common cauſe, which cauſe muſt have been a ſudden ſubſidence of ground. I think it can ſcarcely admit of a doubt that the fat, clayey ſoil is the effect of a continued decompoſition of vegetable matter,

ter, (this decompoſition being occaſioned moſtly by the frequent floods which ſubmerge vegetation in low grounds, often for a conſiderable time,) and that it is encreaſed beſides by the muddy depoſit left by ſtreams that iſſue from the ſides of the neighbouring hills. The true ſubſoil, or rocky baſis of the country is the ſubſtance compoſing the prominent parts, which may be compared to the bones in an animal body that are leſs covered by muſcle and fat, and almoſt expoſe their ſurfaces to view. Eaſt of Bridgwater we ſoon find traces of limeſtone, which diſcovers itſelf in ſeveral pits (opened for procuring it), wherein the *ſtrata* are horizontal, and in every reſpect ſimilar to the *lyas* dug about Somerton. This ſpecies contains a large portion of argill, and ſeems to connect the grand tract of limeſtone with the argillaceous grit prevailing more weſtward, though the gradation is maintained ſtill more completely by the looſe marly ſoil obſervable between theſe two ſubſtances, and which may be followed along the whole margin of the loamy country. *Somerſet.*

Somerſet. Nineteen parts in twenty of rich moor land remain in graſs. The mud of the numerous drains makes the principal (and almoſt the only) manure. Such is the native richneſs and ſtrength of theſe lands when ſown, that ſome will yield from ten to twelve crops without a fallow. Thirty-five buſhels of wheat, *per* acre, have been yielded annually, for eighteen years following.

Brent-Torr. BRENT-TORR has been mentioned before. This lofty conical eminence, ſuppoſed to riſe to the height of almoſt one thouſand feet above the level of the ſea, is viſible to an immenſe diſtance. There is a large double intrenchment at the top; the ſhape of it has not regularity enough to determine its date, but, from braſs and ſilver coins of the Roman empire having been found here, it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe that the antiquity of this ſtation is very great. As it commands ſo extenſive a ſpace, its importance has, no doubt, been often experienced.

In

In order to trace the courſe of the limeſtone, we thought it expedient to return to the coaſt between the northern extremity of Mendip and the river Avon. In all this tract no other ſubſtance is to be met with, but here it aſſumes a nature and appearance very different from the lyas. It breaks equally well in any direction, and the weight is an evidence of it's containing a large proportion of iron, which gives it a black, brown, reddiſh, or yellowiſh colour, according to the different degrees of oxydation. When burned it makes a good lime, and requires but little fire, in compariſon with many other *ſpecies*. The direction of the *ſtrata* is not the ſame in every ridge; about the Hot-wells they ſeem to run from ſouth-weſt to north-eaſt, whereas at Swallow cliff, near Wood-ſpring they are from ſouth-eaſt to north-weſt, the dip being to the ſouth-weſt. Veins of calamine occur in almoſt every quarry, though they are not rich enough to deſerve working much to the north of Mendip. *Somerſet.*

Somerſet. Banwell.

BANWELL was anciently a place of ſome note, and even now indeed it is far from being a mean or an inconſiderable village. Here was once a monaſtery (founded by one of the Weſt-Saxon princes) in which the celebrated Aſſer ſome time preſided, by the appointment of his patron Alfred.* It was deſtroyed, however, in the time of the Daniſh wars, and we find a gap in its hiſtory until the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, who gave the manor to the Biſhop of Wells, its former poſſeſſor Harold, Earl of Weſſex, being baniſhed the realm for abſenting himſelf from the great council ſummoned by that monarch. On the ſite of the monaſtery an epiſcopal palace was erected, by Biſhop Beckington; conſiderable remains of this building are ſtill to be ſeen to the ſouth-eaſt of the church-yard. There was a communication with the latter, though the grand entrance was towards the ſtreet, where the gate and a part

* Spelman *Aelfredi Magni Vita*, lib. 2, p. 53.

of

of the front (now converted into ſtables) are very conſpicuous. Some Gothic windows are left in the modernized part, which is ſituated behind, pretty near to the church. *Somerſet.*

Few ſpots command a more lovely landſcape than the hill above Banwell. We had an opportunity of contemplating it under the advantage of a beautiful ſetting ſun, which, when ſinking behind the Welſh mountains, gave a fullneſs to their outline, and diſplayed to us an infinite number of magnificent eminences ſwelling one above another with an effect inconceivably ſublime. The ſea rolled with a calm and placid ſurface, broken here and there by a ſpeck of land, between the two coaſts, and on the eaſtern ſide of it a charming area was ſpread out interſperſed with villages, meads, and hedge-rows innumerable. To our right a fine knoll crowned with oak impended over the village, whilſt the noble heights of Mendip behind it, tinged with a mellow purple, undulated gradually down into the flat in a north-weſt direction.

Somerſet. The lofty, elegant tower of the church below us, appearing here boſomed in trees, formed a ſort of index of the departing blaze, preparatory to the more ſober tints in which all the ſurrounding objects were at length to be involved.

In a moſt ſecluded and unfrequented ſpot, and almoſt on the brink of the channel ſtand the Woodſpring. ruins of the Priory of WOODSPRING, which belonged to monks of the Auguſtine order, a ſociety of whom was eſtabliſhed here about the year 1210 by William de Courtenay.* The conventual church, refectory, and barn are pretty entire, and, with other detached parts, ſerve to point out the exact plan of the monaſtery. Little did the original tenants imagine that their whole premiſes were one day to be occupied by a farmer;—that the refectory was to be converted into a cart-houſe; and the church itſelf into a cellar! Society, however, has little reaſon

* Collinſon's *Hiſtory of Somerſet*, vol. 3, p. 594.

perhaps

Somerſet. more than all. This building is very large, and diſtinguiſhed by a wheat-ſheaf cut in ſtone over a lofty arch-way, through which it ſeems as if waggons formerly paſſed. Few religious ſocieties in the kingdom could be provided with a more commodious ſtructure for laying up the produce of their lands, but many, it is to be feared, had the means of filling a ſpace much larger.

Being deſirous of beſtowing particular obſervation on the productions of the Mendip hills, we eſtabliſhed our head-quarters for a while at
Chedder. the romantic village of CHEDDER. The cliffs here had been too often deſcribed to us in terms of wonder not to attract our earlieſt attention. They certainly conſtitute one of the fineſt mountain ſcenes in the weſt of England; I do not recollect having ever ſeen any of an equal effect. The village is ſituated under the ſouth-weſt ſide of Mendip, and yet much elevated above the level of the moors, ſo that the contraſt between the lofty brows of the hills on one ſide

The Rev.d T. Rackett del
S. Alken fecit.

ſide and the fertile flats on the other is ſingu- *Somerſet.*
larly ſtriking. The chaſm by which the cliffs are formed does not diſcloſe itſelf until we come near a mill, turned by a rapid brook that guſhes out near the entrance, and ſoon afterwards looſes itſelf in the Ax. Proceeding by the ſide of of this brook, we are ſuddenly ſtruck by a gap in the ſide of the mountain, of the extent of which we no ſooner form an idea than we find it erroneous, for the rocks project one behind another ſo as often to appear to prevent further progreſs. We are conſtantly deceived, and at length diſcover that this ſtupendous chaſm extends quite through the ſouth-weſt ridge of Mendip, from top to bottom, the length being at leaſt two miles, at the end of which it divides into two branches, ſo as to allow an eaſy aſcent to the top of hills. The direction is winding, but on the whole nearly from ſouth-weſt to north-eaſt. In many points the cliffs riſe to the height of full three hundred feet quite perpendicularly, ſome terminating in bold pinnacles, others in irregular fragments like ſhattered battle-

Somerſet. battlements of vaſt caſtles, and others inclining as if about to cruſh the ſpectator as he paſſes under. Yews project out of ſeveral of the fiſſures, forming lofty canopies of a ſolemn ſhade; many rocks wear long mantles of ivy, which have the moſt picturesque and beautiful appearance, compared with the craggy nakedneſs of the others. The ſcenery varies continually, and to catch all its ſublime effects it is neceſſary to traverſe the gap backward and forward for ſome time. The width decreaſes gradually towards the termination, the bottom appearing more and more overſpread with fragments of rock, which render it in ſome places with difficulty paſſable. On the right hand, the cliffs are much ſteeper than on the left, and for the moſt part inacceſſible, but it may be remarked that, in general, the ſalient angels on one ſide correſpond with the recipient ones on the other. Indeed every circumſtance contributes to impreſs a belief that the mountain muſt have been here violently rent aſunder, either in conſequence of ſome remote part ſuddenly loſing its ſupport,

ſupport, and ſubſiding, or of ſome ſubterraneous force operating immediately below *this* part, and elevating it above the level of the reſt. The inclination of the *ſtrata*, which are from one foot to three feet in thickneſs, is to the ſouth-weſt nearly, the general direction of them being from north-weſt to ſouth-eaſt; this is the courſe of the hills, the height of which ſeems to increaſe northward, and particularly near the village of Loxton, where is a prodigious eminence called *Crook's peak*. Though the cliffs are not ſo wide apart as thoſe of Dovedale, yet, (excepting that the latter are more profuſely adorned with wood) there is a great reſemblance between theſe two groteſque ſpots. The rocks of Chedder are certainly on the grandeſt and boldeſt ſcale; on the other hand, they have not the advantage of a beautiful ſtream, like the Dove, dividing them. Stupendous as they are, there is a contiguous part of Mendip ſome hundred feet higher, ſloping from their tops with a gradual aſcent, and commanding, particularly to the weſt and ſouth, a moſt extenſive proſpect. *Somerſet.*

Mendip

Somerſet. Mendip may be called the *Alps* of Somerſetſhire, as the Peak may of Derbyſhire, and both theſe immenſe, remarkable chains of mountains are extremely alike with regard to the materials that compoſe them. The rocks of the Peak abound with veins of lead and calamine, as do thoſe of Mendip: both contain vaſt caverns and ſubterraneous vaults: and both conſiſt of a ſimilar ſpecies of ſtone. The limeſtone of Mendip contains various coralloid relics (like that of Derbyſhire) to a certain depth, when the miners find it more compact and quite free from foſſils.

The Chedder cliffs produce ſeveral of the rarer plants. I muſt not omit mentioning *Dianthus cæſius** (Chedder Pink) *D. arenarius*, and *Thalictrum minus*. The hiſtory of the firſt of theſe plants has been more perplexed than that of any other Britiſh ſpecies perhaps, and it

* The trivial name of *cæſius*, which is extremely appropriate, firſt occurs in Sowerby's *Engliſh Botany*, vol. 1, p. 62.

has

has been difficult to ſay which was the true Chedder Pink, and which was not. It is to be diſtinguiſhed, however, by the ſtems being moſtly ſingle-flowered: the ſcales of the *calyx* roundiſh and ſhort; the petals notched and bearded; and the leaves rough in the margin. This elegant plant has never yet been found but on the cliffs of Chedder, where it was gathered firſt by Mr. Brewer, in Ray's time. The flowers make their appearance in July, decorating the rocks moſt luxuriantly. *Somerſet.*

The moſt noted mines for calamine are about SHIPHAM and Wrington. The former of theſe villages is ſituated under ſome lofty, wild ſwells which overlook the country north-weſt of Mendip, and it is inhabited entirely by miners, who have hollowed out the ground under the very foundations of the houſes. At the particular hours of the day when their labour ceaſes, they may be ſeen crawling out of the ground exactly like rabbits from their burrows. Theſe ſubterraneous occupations, they informed *Shipham.*

Somerſet. informed us, are very fluctuating in the profit they produce. A miner will ſometimes gain a guinea *per* week, and ſometimes not ſo much as five ſhillings. He pays one tenth to the lord of the ſoil, if the mine be opened on a common, but, if it be on any encloſed land, as much as one fourth. The calamine when calcined is worth from four pounds, ten ſhillings, to five pounds *per* ton, being purchaſed chiefly by braſs-founders from Briſtol and Birmingham.

The calamine of Mendip, in its crude ſtate, is either of a yellowiſh or of a reddiſh colour; indeed they ſometimes find a blackiſh ſort. In texture it is in ſome inſtances compact, in others cellular, and the form either amorphous or cryſtallized. A ſpecies called by the miners *bone-calamine* (which they value very highly) is in polyedral cryſtals; the ordinary ſort has rather a ſtalactitical appearance, and is mixed with a good deal of calcareous ſpar and martial ochre. The veins, or lodes, are almoſt always accompanied by lead.

They

They uſually run in a direction pretty nearly from ſouth-eaſt to north-weſt, or, to uſe the terms of the miners themſelves, *lie at nine o'clock.* Some of the courſes are at *ſix o'clock*, that is, from eaſt to weſt. They underlie commonly a little to the ſouth-weſt; but ſuch as are perpendicular are eſteemed the beſt. The ſhafts are from ſix to twelve fathoms deep, though, I believe, the calamine is to be found at all depths. It does not ſeem poſſible to diſcover veins by any marks on the ſurface of the ground, for there is no difference in the appearance of vegetation, nor do the ſprings in the neighbourhood ſeem to be affected either in regard to taſte, or colour; ſo that the digging of trenches muſt be the only mode of aſcertaining with certainty where the calamine lies. We obſerved that the fragments were very different in ſize, ſome being not much larger than walnuts; it has been ſaid that others have been found to weigh eight or ten tons.

To prepare calamine for the founderies, they

Somerſet. firſt waſh, or *buddle* it, by encloſing a certain ſpace of ground with boards or turf, through which a ſtream of water is conducted. By theſe means the calamine, lead, and ſpar are cleanſed from earthy and impure matter, which in conſequence of frequent ſhovelling and ſtirring is waſhed away. Theſe ſubſtances are then put into ſieves, made of ſtrong wire at the bottom, and, by being frequently dipped and ſhaken about in water, ſubſide according to their reſpective weights, the lead lying lowermoſt, the calamine next, and the ſparry particles at the top. The laſt are ſkimmed off and thrown away, and the calamine when ſeparated from the lead is placed in an oven to be calcined. This oven is ſo contrived that the flame may be directed over it, and the heat is kept up for four or five hours, or more, according to circumſtances, the ore being frequently ſtirred about with long iron coal-rakes. When the latter is ſufficiently dried and baked, it is beat to a fine powder either with large hammers or iron bars, and thus rendered fit for ſale. The calcu-

calculation is that forty five pounds of calamine are reduced by calcination to about thirty. *Somerſet.*

On Mendip they call their works *grooves*, and the miners *groovers*, which are terms that ſeem to be peculiar to this part of the country. Any Engliſhman is allowed to open a groove if he pleaſes, provided he does not fix on a ſpot taken poſſeſſion of by another, and has not offended againſt any law or cuſtom of the hills.

The principal lead-mines lie about Priddy and Eaſt-Harptree. There are ſeveral not far from Shipham, north-weſt of which place we come to what is called *Under Mendip*. At the depth of about eighty fathoms, water here flows ſo faſt upon the miners that, for want of engines, they can never work deeper. The ore they obtain is worth about ſix pounds *per* ton. The moſt productive lodes are encloſed between very hard rocks (of limeſtone) that exhibit a greyiſh fracture, but have a deep red ſurface, occaſioned by the oxyde of iron. In the Under Mendip.

Somerſet. grooves we inſpected, the lodes were from half an inch to two inches in thickneſs, and were accompanied by calamine, mixed with a calcareous ſtone called *crootes*. The ore is often ſuddenly loſt, but may be recovered again by working a few fathoms further in the ſame direction; the intermediate ſpace is filled in general by a looſe, ochry ſubſtance, and ſometimes clay: this is what is meant by a *deading bed*. A clear, heavy ore is called *goods*. Thirty-ſix hundred of this may yield about a ton of lead. It is of the *galena* kind, but of a more refractory nature than that of Derbyſhire, for which reaſon it is uſed chiefly for making balls. A calciform ſpecies, of a radiated or fibrous texture, is ſometimes found, but this is turned to very little account.

Eaſt-Harptree. About EAST-HARPTREE manganeſe is dug in ſome quantity, in the ſtate of black oxyde.—Near this village, is a hill called *the Lamb*, where is a remarkable cavern, the deſcent into which is by a ſhaft ſeventy fathoms in depth. Many veins of lead ore and calamine may be traced

traced here. The cavern is very lofty and ſpacious, and opens into ſeveral ſmaller cavities overhung with *ſtalactites* and various ſparry concretions. *Somerſet.*

The Mendip labourers ſuffer much in their health, from the nature of their employments, and unfortunately their poverty deprives them of the means of taking ſuch precautions as are neceſſary. They rarely breathe any other than the moſt noxious air, for they cannot afford to open ſhafts for ſupplying freſh, and they work up to their chins in water, having no adits for carrying the latter off. In ſome mines they feel the fatal effects of the carbonic acid, but, from my own experience, I am certain that other circumſtances often produce conſequences as dreadful. I was in one gallery of ſuch length and ſo confined that amidſt the fumes of gunpowder (uſed for ſplitting the rock), the breath of three or four people huddled cloſe together, and the oily *effluvia* of the candles, I had nearly ſunk with ſuffocation before I had remained in

Somerſet. it a quarter of an hour.—The common mode of deſcending is by a rope tied round the thighs, and it is wonderful with what rapidity the miners let themſelves down only by ſliding their hands along this rope when dropped to the bottom. Their buckets, which are brought up by a windlaſs, hold about a gallon. Their beetles, pickaxes, and wedges, unleſs hardened enough to make a deep impreſſion when ſtruck upon the head of an anvil, are not fit for uſe, ſo that an entire ſtock is ſometimes broken in a day.

All diſputes reſpecting the mines are ſettled by a jury of twelve men, ſummoned by an officer called the *Lead-reeve*. Many regulations, however, have been eſtabliſhed by common conſent, the breach of which the miners puniſh after their own manner, without any regular proceſs of law. A curious inſtance of this is *the burning of the hill*, as it is called,—the puniſhment inflicted on any one who ſteals ore or tools, which being left in little huts, at a diſtance from the habitation of the proprietor, often

often tempt a thief to carry them off. If detected, he is ſhut up in one of theſe huts,—a good deal of combuſtible matter, ſuch as ſtraw, dry boughs, &c. is placed around it, and the whole ſet on fire. He may make his eſcape by what means he can, but it is ſeldom without being handſomely ſinged and half ſuffocated, and he is never ſuffered to dig on the hills afterwards.

On our botanical excurſions about Mendip, we had much amuſement. In a wood near Axbridge appeared *Lithoſpermum purpuro-cæruleum*, a beautiful plant, and one that does not accommodate itſelf to every ſoil and ſituation. We ſucceeded too in our ſearch after *Arenaria verna* and *Saxifraga hypnoides*, which grow ſo abundantly in the mountains of the Peak; the mention of theſe two plants would alone be ſufficient to inform a botaniſt of the great elevation of Mendip.—There is but little depth of mould on any part of the hills, yet ſheep and young cattle find tolerable paſture. The wood

Somerſet. is of diminutive growth, and very ſparing, except on the ſouthern ſide, above Axbridge, and here many of the mountainous ſhrubs appear, which ſtrike their roots through the crevices of the limeſtone. *Cratægus Aria* (white-beam tree) flouriſhes in two or three of the moſt naked, expoſed ſpots. The wood of this tree is uſed for handles of tools by the miners, and a ſtick of it makes a pretty tough weapon.

Among the natural curioſities of Mendip I muſt not omit to mention a remarkable cavern called WOOKEY HOLE, ſituated about two miles, to the north-weſt, from Wells. It obtains its name from a village which ſtands not far off, under the ſouth ſide of the hills. The approach to the cavern is extremely picturesque, being through a ſort of receſs, or hollow, formed by an aſſemblage of vaſt rocks (which over the orifice riſe to the height of at leaſt two hundred feet) almoſt covered with trees and plants ſpringing out of their fiſſures. On the left ſide of this receſs is a natural terrace, which leads to the

Wookey Hole.

the mouth of the cavern, and through the middle of it runs a clear rapid rivulet, that ruſhes out of a rude arch thirty feet in height, and forty in breadth, impetuouſly making its way over an irregular bed of rocks. After having admired this romantic ſcene, we were conducted, through an opening not more than ſix feet high, into a ſpacious vault, eighty feet in height, entirely covered with *ſtalactites;* on the ground lay conical nodules of pellucid ſpar. We deſcended hence down a dozen ſteps or more, called *Hell-ladder*, (which is the only appearance of art through the whole), and entered another vault rather ſmaller and lower than the former, but ſimilarly encruſted with ſparry projections from the roof and ſides. Beyond this, a low, uneven paſſage leads to a ſpace nearly circular and about one hundred and twenty feet in diameter, with a ſingular vaulted roof forty feet in height. On one ſide of this part of the cavern flows the rivulet, which is ſuppoſed to take its riſe on ſome boggy ground above. Eels and other fiſh are ſometimes caught here. Adjoining to the circular area

Somerſet. area is what our guide called the *witch's brew-houſe*, where a great number of ſingular configurations of ſtalactite are obſervable, and the vulgar have given them correſpondent appellations, ſuch as the *boiler*, *furnace*, &c. To the left is the *hall*, which is very lofty, the centre of the roof being apparently one hundred feet, at leaſt, above the ground. Next we entered the *parlour*, a very low apartment in compariſon with the others; this indeed the name ſuggeſts. Here is a well, arched over, and full of fine ſweet water. We now arrived at the extremity of Wookey Hole (above ſix hundred feet from the entrance) being ſtopped by the ſtream. As we returned we could contemplate the appearance of every part more fully and leiſurely, and were much ſtruck with the various forms which the cryſtals over our heads occaſionally aſſumed:——

> "Here glitt'ring turrets riſe, upbearing high
> (Fantaſtic miſarrangement) on the roof,
> Large growth of what may ſeem the ſparkling trees
> And ſhrubs of fairy land. The cryſtal drops
> That trickle down the branches faſt congeal'd

Shoot

Shoot into pillars of pellucid length
And prop the pile they but adorn'd before;
Here grotto within grotto———"

COWPER.

Somerſet.

Wookey Hole is more ſpacious than Kent's, (near Torquay) and reſembles more the famous cavern at Caſtleton. Caverns cannot differ materially, however, except in ſize, and in that reſpect no one in England can be compared to the latter.

From the top of the rocks over the entrance of Wookey hole, the hill riſes with great ſteepneſs almoſt a mile, towards the north.

About half a mile before we reach WELLS, we have a very beautiful view of that city, the noble heights of Mendip receding in the form of an amphitheatre, and ſheltering it northward, whilſt fertile meadows unfold to the ſouth. The towers of the Cathedral and St. Cuthbert's church ſhew themſelves with a venerable air, and

Wells.

Somerſet. and with all the effect that diſtant landſcape can impart.

The ideas we had been led to entertain in regard to the neatneſs and pleaſantneſs of Wells were by no means diminiſhed at our entrance into it. Though ſmall, this city is populous, and in general well laid out. The ſtreets are clean and commodious, and there is a good area before the cathedral, the beautiful front of which is ſeen to great advantage. It owes its origin to a remarkable ſpring called *St. Andrew's well*, ſuppoſed to poſſeſs medicinal, and indeed *miraculous* properties, and which invited hither Ina, King of the Weſt-Saxons, whoſe religious zeal prompted him to found a collegiate church, dedicated to the honor of the above ſaint. This church became a cathedral about the year 905, when ſo many new biſhoprics were conſtituted by order of Edward the elder. The ſee was afterwards transferred, however, for a while, to Bath, where Biſhop de Villula built a palace, by the perſuaſions of the monks of St. Peter's, and

took

took the title of Biſhop of that city. Great contentions, of courſe, ſoon aroſe between the two chapters of Bath and Wells reſpecting the right of electing to the epiſcopal office. The matter being referred to the arbitration of the Biſhop himſelf, it was determined that his ſucceſſors ſhould take their title from both churches, that an equal number of delegates from both chapters ſhould enjoy the privilege of voting, and that the inſtallation ſhould take place in both cathedrals. This regulation, which was made by Biſhop Robert about the year 1135, continued until the reign of Henry VIII. when an act of parliament paſſed for veſting the power of electing ſolely in the Dean and Chapter of Wells.*— The weſtern part of the preſent Cathedral was begun about the year 1239 by Biſhop Joceline

Somerſet.

* There is a very whimſical account of the circumſtance that occaſioned the cities of Bath and Wells being united under one biſhop current among the vulgar. It is ſaid that Charles II. wiſhing to raiſe Dean Crichton, a native of Scotland, to the epiſcopal dignity, gave him the choice of either Bath or Wells, and that the honeſt Scotchman having informed his majeſty he wiſhed to have "*Bauth*," which was miſtaken for his deſiring *both*, the two biſhoprics were forthwith granted to him, with the intention that they ſhould be conjoined for ever after!

de

Somerſet. de Wells, and dedicated to St. Andrew;* the eaſtern is of an earlier date, and veſtiges of the original Saxon ſtructure may be perceived in ſome places. In the centre of the tranſepts riſes a large quadrangular tower, one hundred and ſixty feet in height, reſting on four broad arches. This tower ſeems rather too heavy, however, in proportion to the reſt of the building. The length of the nave is one hundred and ninety feet; of the choir, to the altar, one hundred and eight; and of the chapel of the Virgin beyond, which is of very elegant architecture, fifty-two feet. There are eight chapels, excluſive of the one juſt mentioned; in theſe repoſe the remains of ſeveral biſhops and dignitaries of the dioceſe. The workmanſhip of the roof and other parts is in a very good ſtile, and the whole has a handſome and ſtriking appearance, though the eye is rather offended by the white and yellow with which the cieling,

* Collinſon's *Hiſtory of Somerſet*, vol. 3, p. 398.

walls,

walls, &c. are daubed over. It is a vulgar taſte that can reliſh either glaring or contraſted colours in the inſide of a venerable Gothic pile; we were not ſurpriſed to hear the ſexton pronounce the effect to be very *neat*, and were almoſt induced to conclude that *his* judgment alone had been conſulted. The windows are ornamented with ſome good painted glaſs, executed in 1607, but I cannot find the name of the artiſt recorded. In an old chapel of the north tranſept, is ſhewn a clock made by Peter Lightfoot, a monk of Glaſtonbury, from the abbey of which place it was brought hither; the mechaniſm was no doubt eſteemed very wonderful at the period of its conſtruction. The cloiſter, ſituated on the ſouth-ſide of the cathedral, was built at different periods, but principally under the direction of Biſhop de Beckington, who came to the ſee in the year 1444. The ſides are not perfectly equal in length, and, though the ſtile is not uniform, yet they have an air of regularity. Over the eaſtern ſide is the library, which is diſtinguiſhed by its

Somerſet. its neatneſs and order from every cathedral library I have ſeen. It contains no inconſiderable number of books; theſe were the gifts of various prelates, but the moſt munificent benefactor to it was the celebrated Biſhop Kenn.* The chapter-houſe is of an octagonal form, one pillar only ſupporting the roof, as in moſt other buildings of this nature.—But the moſt intereſting part of the Cathedral, and which in ſtrict propriety ſhould have had the priority of deſcription, is the weſt front, certainly one of the moſt ſuperb pieces of Gothic workmanſhip in the kingdom. It is adorned with an infinite number of elegant niches and canopies, wherein are images of the apoſtles, and of ſeveral hierarchs, popes, princes, and biſhops. On each ſide of the great buttreſſes are ſtatues as large as the life, and the whole line of the length of the

* Kenn was one of the ſeven biſhops that oppoſed the reading of the royal declaration of indulgence, and was, in conſequence, committed to the Tower. He relinquiſhed his preferment, however, at the arrival of the Prince of Orange, and retired to Longleat, in Wiltſhire, where he wrote his poetical works.

portal

portal is occupied by a curious repreſentation of the reſurrection of the dead. There is a handſome tower at each corner, of appropriate ſize and with correſpondent ſculpture. I am ſurpriſed that this front ſhould have been ſuffered to be disfigured by a ſepulchral inſcription, which, though very ancient, may ſtill be traced, particularly the following words, a few feet above the ground: "*Pur l'alme Johan de Puttenie pries et treſe jurs de . . . . .*" *Somerſet.*

Southward from the Cathedral ſtands the Epiſcopal Palace, which has more the appearance of a fortified caſtle than of the reſidence of a biſhop. It is ſurrounded by an embattled wall, flanked with ſemicircular turrets, and on the north ſide there is a venerable large gate-houſe, ſtanding cloſe to the moat. Part of the old palace is going to decay, but on the eaſtern ſide of the *ballium*, or court, ſeveral handſome modern apartments have been added. The moat is ſupplied with water from St. Andrew's well, which may be ſeen not far diſtant. Biſhop

Somerſet. Erghum began the fortifications. In his times eccleſiaſtical dignity was maintained leſs by a pious life and a zeal for religion than by external parade and *military* power.—The three gates to the College-cloſe were erected by Biſhop Beckington, and, with the other ſtructures built at the expence of this public-ſpirited prelate, give an air of grandeur to the city in a remarkable degree. His device,—a flaming *beacon* on a *tun*, or caſk,—occurs in numberleſs places.—The Vicars' cloſe contains about forty dwelling houſes, and has next the ſtreet, at the ſouth end, a hall, and at the other end, northward, a chapel. The vicars belonging to the church form a diſtinct corporate body, and before the Reformation led a ſort of monaſtic life, having received various benefactions and regulations from different eccleſiaſtical perſonages; the preſent eſtabliſhment is under the authority of a charter granted by Elizabeth.—Oppoſite the north porch of the cathedral a houſe was pointed out to us which was formerly appropriated to the Arch-deacon of Wells, and on that account

ſome

ſome time the reſidence of Polydore Virgil, the author of the Hiſtory of England and other works. His birth-place was Urbino, in Italy, where he died A. D. 1555. *Somerſet.*

Before we took leave of the interior parts of Somerſetſhire, one place remained to be viſited, which, in the opinion of the antiquary, may appear equally intereſting with any in the weſt of England:—this was GLASTONBURY. Excluſive of the inſtruction they afford as fragments of architecture, and of their effect as ruins, the remains of an abbey, that, according to tradition, was the earlieſt religious inſtitution in our iſland;—that contained the aſhes of one of the moſt illuſtrious of its heroes;* invited the pious from the moſt remote parts of Chriſtendom; and enjoyed the moſt ſplendid patronage and revenue, perhaps, of any ſimilar eſtabliſhment in Europe, certainly offer no mean ſubject for Glaſtonbury.

* King Arthur.

Somerſet. contemplation.—The town of Glaſtonbury is ſituated on a gentle declivity, open to the moors of the iſle of Avalon, within the boundaries of which it ſtands. It conſiſts chiefly of two long ſtreets croſſing each other nearly at right angles. Moſt of the buildings exhibit ſome marks of antiquity, and even ſuch as are of modern erection are decorated with the ſpoils of the abbey. That which is now called the *abbey-houſe* was conſtructed out of the ruins of the abbot's lodging, and exhibits a multitude of eſcutcheons, devices, and ornaments in high relief. What was once the great gate of the abbey is become an inn, as is alſo an hoſpital for the entertainment of pilgrims, ſituated northward from the market-croſs. The front of the latter is moſt elaborately and curiouſly ornamented, and has niches, and canopies for images, in abundance. Two hoſpitals for poor and infirm people, whoſe benefactors were abbots of this place, and two chapels, ſaid to have been erected by the ſame perſonages, ſtill ſubſiſt. Relics of other ancient buildings are too numerous

merous to be detailed;—I ſhall therefore proceed to a deſcription of the abbey itſelf. *Somerſet.*

The foundation plot of this immenſe fabric (including the ſeveral offices, &c.) occupied an area of ſixty acres, but, except St. Joſeph's chapel, the abbot's kitchen, and ſome large fragments of the church, this ſpace now contains little elſe but rubbiſh.* The nave of the church from St. Joſeph's chapel to the croſs was two hundred and twenty feet; each tranſept forty-five; and the choir one hundred and fifty-five feet, in length. The chapel of St. Joſeph of Arimathea, contiguous to the weſtern end, meaſures one hundred and ten feet in length, and twenty-four in breadth. Adjoining to the ſouth ſide was the cloiſter, which formed a ſquare of two hundred and twenty feet. There were five

* If the reader ſhould feel a curioſity to be informed how this ſpace was originally laid out, I muſt refer to the "*Inventory of the Chambers, Offices, &c.*" taken about the time of the Reformation, and to be ſeen in Collinſon, vol. 2, p. 260.

Somerſet. chapels, (in addition to that already mentioned) communicating with the church, and ſome remains of theſe may ſtill be ſeen.

St. Joſeph's chapel is pretty entire, excepting the roof and floor, and muſt be admired for the richneſs of the finiſhing, as well as the great elegance of the deſign. I cannot find any account of the time of its foundation, but the ſtyle being *Semi-Saxon*, or Saxonico-Gothic, of which it is a ſingular and beautiful ſpecimen, proves it to have been prior to the fourteenth century; the communication with the church was by a ſpacious portal. There are doors to the north and ſouth beſides; one is ornamented with flower-work and hiſtory, the other with very elaborate flouriſhes and figures. The arches of the windows (of which there are ſix on each ſide) are pointed; underneath appear compartments of interlaced zigzag arches of five pillars, and ſome others in a different ſtyle, their ſpandrils adorned with roſes, creſcents, and ſtars. Large ſtones falling in from above have damaged

The Rev.d T. Bucknell del.
S. Alken Fecit

damaged the floor ſo much that a great part of it has ſunk into the vault below, which was turned upon arches that were groined and pointed. At the ſouth-eaſt corner of this vault is an arched way ſaid to lead to the torr, and, we were informed, this has been traced to ſome diſtance, but it is moſt probable that the whole was intended to be a repoſitory for the dead. Many leaden coffins have been taken up here, and may be ſeen in different parts of the town, ſerving for ciſterns.—The ivy with which the walls of the chapel are moſt exuberantly covered gives them a truly venerable and intereſting effect. Though I could not help feeling ſome melancholy emotions at the idea of ſo elegant a fabric ſuffering from the ſilent aſſaults of time, they were much increaſed when I conſidered that it was not ſecure againſt other, and perhaps more violent, invaders. *Somerſet.*

Two of the pillars that ſupported the tower, with part of the arch, and a few fragments of the ſouth walls of the choir are the whole of the

Somerſet. Conventual Church now ſtanding. There is a ſufficient ſpecimen of the workmanſhip, however, in the arches of the windows, to authorize a belief that this edifice was in the beſt ſtyle of the early Gothic. It is wonderful that ſo ſtupendous a maſs of building ſhould have ſuffered ſuch depredation and diminution within a period which innumerable others, of inferior magnitude, have ſurvived almoſt unmoleſted; and I am rather induced to think that the rage and avarice of Henry VIII. muſt have been carried further than uſual in this inſtance. The *firſt* of theſe paſſions, (which always grew ſtronger in proportion to the obſtacles offered to the gratification of the ſecond,) was certainly wreaked upon the perſon of Abbot Whiting in a very ſignal manner. This poor man, who was doomed to be the laſt head of the great eccleſiaſtical ſociety of Glaſtonbury, and whoſe only offence (notwithſtanding the many heinous charges that were brought againſt him,) appears to have been an unwillingneſs to ſurrender their vaſt poſſeſſions, was hanged on a gibbet within

within ſight of his own abbey, and his aged corpſe afterwards mangled and divided, in order to be expoſed at different places. *Somerſet.*

The Abbot's kitchen is octagonal, four of the angles being filled with fire-places, each of which meaſures ſixteen feet in length, and has an inclined chimney, the ſmoke paſſing out at a double octangular vent that crowns a pyramidal roof of the ſame number of ſides. The ſtones of the pyramid are all cut ſlanting with the ſame bevils to throw off the rain.—This curious and durable ſtructure is ſaid to have been built in Henry VIII.'s time; Mr. Groſe thought it was not ſo modern.

Glaſtonbury Abbey has been conſidered as the moſt ancient in England; nor are the monkiſh writers content to fix its date before the Saxon times, but have even contended that the Chriſtian faith was planted at this place, within thirty years after our Saviour's paſſion, by Joſeph of Arimathea. The truth of this aſſertion I am not

Somerſet. not prepared to controvert, and ſhall therefore be expected to give the particulars handed down by thoſe people. They tell us that Philip preached the goſpel among the Franks, and ſent St. Joſeph, at the head of eleven other miſſionaries, to propagate it in our iſland;—that the latter erected at Glaſtonbury to the honor of the bleſſed Virgin, of wattles and wreathed twigs, the firſt Chriſtian oratory in Britain;—that Chriſt dedicated it to his mother *in perſon*, which St. David would have done, had he not been forbidden;—and that Arviragus, King of theſe parts (but *of doubtful memory*) granted the miſſionaries fourteen hundred acres of land for their ſupport. The people relapſing into idolatry after the deceaſe of the miſſionaries, King Lucius is ſaid to have given intimation of the circumſtance to Pope Eleutherius, who ſent over St. Phaganus and Diruvianus. Theſe holy men, with others, ſettled in the ſame ſpot as St. Joſeph had choſen for his ruſtic church, and St. Patrick, the apoſtle of Ireland, diſciplined them into a monaſtic life, being appointed their

their firſt abbot, about the year 439. St. Benignus, ſecond Biſhop of Armagh, followed the example of his predeceſſor, and preſided over the ſociety after him. About the year 530, another holy perſon, St. David, Arch-biſhop of Menevia, came hither, and expended large ſums of money on the monaſtery. This laſt mentioned ſaint was uncle of the renowned Arthur, who, in his time, was interred here, and whoſe coffin was diſcovered in the monk's cemetery ſix hundred and forty years afterwards, in conſequence of the ſearch made by order of Henry II.—Whatever degree of improbability may attach to the above account of the foundation of the abbey, it is pretty certain that, when Ina aſcended the throne of the Weſt-Saxons, it became a ſumptuous and celebrated eſtabliſhment, his piety having prompted him to rebuild the walls in a magnificent manner, and to make immenſe donations to the ſociety. Succeeding monarchs did not withhold their benefactions, but were zealous in ratifying, and adding to, the grants before made, and coveted the honor of interment

Somerſet. ment among the bodies of thoſe devout and holy perſons that had repoſed at Glaſtonbury from the very promulgation of Chriſtianity. St. Dunſtan* introduced the order of St. Benedict, and by his influence at court obtained for this diſtinguiſhed ſociety ſtill greater privileges, power, and emoluments than ever. At length the abbots were mitred, became lords of parliament, and rivalled in their table and retinue their ſovereigns themſelves. Whiting is ſaid to have entertained no leſs than five hundred perſons of faſhion at a time, and, whenever he went abroad, was attended by at leaſt one hundred officers and ſervants. No leſs than ſeven

* Afterwards Arch-biſhop of Canterbury, and famous for the diligence with which he perſecuted and hunted the married prieſts out of their livings. He was a man of conſummate addreſs, and to him the regular clergy were in an eminent degree indebted for the favor and affection ſhewn them by Edmund, Edgar, and other monarchs, to the detriment of the ſecúlars. In Brompton we have many intereſting particulars relative to the life of this prelate; as a *wonderful* event in it, I cannot avoid mentioning the Devil's appearance in his preſence. Being employed in making a golden cup at the time, (we are told) he had the quickneſs to ſeize his grim viſitor by the noſe with a pair of hot tongs, and made him hollow to the terror of the town of Glaſtonbury!

parks,

parks, full of deer, all belonging to the abbey, might once have been ſeen from a ſingle ſpot. Sharpham park was often the reſidence of the abbot.—But the meaſure of monaſtic power was now full, and Glaſtonbury at length experienced the fate of other religious houſes, its revenues being ſeized by the ſacrilegious Henry. Theſe revenues, according to Speed, amounted to the ſum of 3508*l.* 13*s.* $4\frac{3}{4}d.$—It would be unjuſt to aſſert that the income of this ſociety was *wholly* miſapplied, when we perceive the names of Bede and Gildas in the liſt of thoſe who partook of it, though thoſe venerable perſons, to whom hiſtory owes ſo much, lived at a period long prior to the accumulation of ſo enormous a ſum. *Somerſet.*

Not only the town but the environs of Glaſtonbury abound with religious relics. The moſt conſpicuous is the *Torr*, or tower of St. Michael, ſituated on a high hill (where Abbot Whiting loſt his life) riſing abruptly from the moors, about a mile ſouth-eaſt from the town. Here were erected a monaſtery and a church to the Glaſtonbury Torr.

Somerſet. the honor of St. Michael, to whom Phaganus and Diruvianus are ſaid to have erected firſt a ſmall oratory. The whole of the buildings were deſtroyed by an earthquake that happened in the year 1271, the preſent tower being of a much later date, and apparently never connected with any other edifice. This tower is very lofty, and of a quadrangular form, with a carved figure of St. Michael on the weſtern ſide, holding a pair of ſcales, in one of which is the Bible, in the other a devil, and another devil hanging by and ſtriving to make weight, but both are too light. There ſeem to have been two or three floors, but they are now entirely decayed, or demoliſhed, and part of the upper ſtory has been blown down, in conſequence of which it is become an habitation for jack-daws. —From this ſpot we may ſurvey the whole ſpace between the Severn and the Wiltſhire hills.—The foot of the Torr is the only place where I have been fortunate enough to find *Vicia lutea.*

There

There is a noble large barn to the ſouth of the town, which, from the antiquity of its appearance, we concluded originally belonged to the abbey. *Somerſet.*

On the ſouth-weſt ſide of Glaſtonbury may be ſeen *Wearyall-hill* (repreſented in the view of the ruins) the name of which originated from a belief prevalent among the vulgar, and inſtilled by the monks, that here St. Joſeph and his companions ſat down *all weary* with their journey! From the ſtick the former ſtuck into the ground, ſay they, ſprung the famous Glaſtonbury thorn, concerning which ſo many marvellous ſtories have been ſpread, and for fancied cuttings from which, even in times when monkiſh ſuperſtition might be ſuppoſed to have ceaſed, people of the firſt rank gave an extravagant price. The Briſtol merchants (Collinſon informs us) actually made a traffic of the plants, and exported them to foreign parts; the people of Glaſtonbury, to this day, cultivate ſlips of hawthorn imagined to have ſprung from the ſacred

Somerſet. cred trunk, and offer them to viſitors as valuable articles, though many a ſprig is cut in the neighbouring hedges.—I have never ſeen the Glaſtonbury thorn in fructification, but all the botaniſts who have examined it in that ſtate agree that it is no other than the common *Cratægus monogyna*. It is a fact, however, that the ſhrub here flowers two or three months before the ordinary time, and ſometimes as early as Chriſtmas day, O. S. whence I conjecture it muſt be at leaſt a *variety* of the above ſpecies, which may have been introduced originally by ſome pilgrim or other from the eaſt.

The various curioſities, together with the ſuperſtitious traditions, above enumerated, draw multitudes of viſitors to Glaſtonbury, which has been benefited by pious impoſtures not a little. Before the year 1751, the town was generally crowded for the ſake ſolely of ſeeing the thorn in bloom.—But I feel too little pleaſure in this ridiculous ſubject to dwell upon it; we will therefore take leave of Glaſtonbury.

Return-

Returning through Wells, we proceeded towards Bath, by excurſions from which place we judged we ſhould make our obſervations on the northern verge of the county with moſt convenience. Opportunities of gaining ſome intelligence relative to the coal-mines were afforded us by the way, as we did not heſitate to deſert the direct road in order to viſit ſuch as lay nearer to Mendip. *Somerſet.*

About Emborough, juſt under the northern ſide of the hills, we found the limeſtone beginning to aſſume a paler colour, and the *ſtrata* moſtly in an horizontal, inſtead of an inclined poſition. As we advance, it inſenſibly approaches nearer to the character of freeſtone, the texture becoming looſe and granular. This ſtone, however, is not, as in the northern parts of England, the country of the coal, there being intermediate *ſtrata*, in general, of two or three different ſubſtances; the following is the order in which they uſually ſucceed each other:—

Limeſtone,

Somerſet. Marl,
Deep red clay,—or ochre,
Argillaceous flaty ſandſtone,
Bituminous argillite,—or hard black argillaceous rock,
Coal.

The ſandſtone has in many inſtances a pyritaceous nature, and in others is mixed with mica. To the north-weſt, particularly about Winford, it degenerates into ruddle.—The bituminous argillite is conſidered as a ſure evidence of good coal being at hand; about Briſlington and elſewhere in the vicinity of Briſtol, it exhibits impreſſions of innumerable ferns and other plants, which are in general too confuſed to be inveſtigated, though I have ſometimes fancied I could diſtinguiſh the particular *ſpecies*. The beds vary pretty much in thickneſs, and are often at the depth of forty or fifty fathoms. They immediately overlie the coal, appearing in a manner to paſs into it, as the colour gradually becomes deeper, and the bituminous quality more ſtrongly perceptible. The hard, compact rock

rock that ſometimes holds the place of the ſlate is no ſmall diſcouragement to the miners, who have not only great labour in getting through it, but ſeldom find a vein afterwards likely to anſwer being worked. Theſe ſubſtances overlying the coal are called *coal clives*. A looſe friable coal that ſometimes precedes the principal *ſtratum* is called the *crop*. This crop often riſes to the ſurface, when the obliquity, or *pitch* of the vein is conſiderable, and directs the miners where to commence their workings. None of the veins have an horizontal, or indeed a perpendicular poſition, unleſs they are broken by a ridge; that is, unleſs the veins have been disjoined by maſſes of rock or rubble breaking through them. In moſt of the works about Mendip the pitch is from twenty to twenty-five inches in a fathom, towards the ſouth. *Somerſet.*

The RADSTOCK MINES run to the depth of forty fathoms, the great vein being about twenty-two inches in thickneſs; they produce from fifteen hundred to one thouſand ſeven hundred Radſtock Mines.

Somerſet. buſhels *per* week. The Earl of Waldegrave is the lord, and has for his portion one eighth. A looſe marl covers the valley in which theſe mines are ſituated, and high cliffs of lime-ſtone rear themſelves on each ſide, exhibiting, throughout, horizontal fiſſures. At the depth of fourteen fathoms they come to a good deal of black argillaceous rock mixed with quartz.

Camerton. In CAMERTON mines red clay and ſandſtone continue to the depth of twenty fathoms or more; afterwards a hard bluiſh ſtone is found; and laſtly carbonaceous ſlate. Contiguous to the coal the laſt ſhews impreſſions of vegetables. There are two very productive veins, about eighteen yards apart; theſe make a ſmall angle towards the ſouth, and are rather more than two feet in thickneſs. Water appears at the depth of a few fathoms, but the workmen, in opening the ſhaft, contrived to get rid of two hundred and eighty-three hogſheads in an hour.

About Midſummer-Norton, Stratton on the foſs,

foſs, and Kilmerſdon, the pits are ſuppoſed to yield weekly from eight hundred to one thouſand tons, which requires the labour of at leaſt five hundred men. The average price of coal in this neighbourhood is about fourpence *per* buſhel. *Somerſet.*

The direction of the veins of coal in Somerſetſhire is very variable, but I think that in general it is from eaſt to weſt nearly. The termination of the coal country ſouthward ſeems to be about Mendip. On the ſide of Wiltſhire we loſe the mines as ſoon as we come to the chalk. Towards the borders of Glouceſterſhire, I remarked, the veins moſtly pitch to the north, but towards Mendip they incline the contrary way.

To enter into a circumſtantial account of the city of BATH, in a work written with ſuch general views as this, would not only be an impropriety, but in another reſpect preſumptuous and unneceſſary. Many full and competent deſcriptions are already in the hands of every *Bath.*

Somerſet. body, and perhaps ſome even of theſe may be conſidered by the public as ſuperfluous.—The ſame remarks will apply to Briſtol (which, beſides, is not ſtrictly within the diſtrict I have undertaken to give a ſketch of) and to the neighbouring country. In regard to picturesque ſcenery and antiquities I could not have been more completely anticipated than by the authors* of a *Guide* publiſhed in 1793, who left no intereſting object unnoticed. The mineralogy of this diſtrict it is incumbent on me in ſome meaſure to touch upon, for unfortunately this branch has rarely been attended to by topographical writers.

The Bath ſtone is a ſort of *oolithus* occaſionally mixed with ſpar and ſhells. In the fiſſures of ſome of the quarries a mineral ſubſtance of great ſcarcity has been obſerved: this is no other than native lime, which Dr. Falconer has

* Meſſrs. Ibbetſon, Laporte, and J. Haſſell.

deſcribed

deſcribed (in his Eſſay on the Bath waters) as of a ſoftiſh texture, and capable of diſſolving ſulphur.—This beautiful city is wholly ſurrounded by hills of limeſtone, which, however, differs a little with regard to texture, and the nature of the *ſtrata*. About Landſdown theſe *ſtrata* increaſe in thickneſs according to their depth, the thinneſt *ſtratum* lying uppermoſt. The grit is here ſo intimately blended with marine bodies and ſparry matter that it is ſcarcely diſcernible. Towards Keynſham we find in the ſtone immenſe *cornua ammonis*, which are carefully picked out and poliſhed for ſale by the quarrymen, who give them the appellation of *ſnake ſtones*. The diameter of many of theſe extraordinary foſſils meaſures nearly two feet. *Somerſet.*

Limeſtone extends beyond the northern verge of the county of Somerſet, and continues eaſtward until it meets the chalk boundaries near Warminſter. We traced it alſo quite from Bath to Brewton, in which direction alſo it cloſely ſkirts the chalk of Wiltſhire.

Somerſet.

Hinton.

The Frome road led us through the pariſh of HINTON, where we found ſome appurtenances of the old priory ſtill ſtanding, though the greater part of the materials were uſed in the conſtruction of the preſent manor-houſe. This priory was founded by the famous William Longeſpee, Earl of Saliſbury, and natural ſon of Henry II. The monks, who were of the Carthuſian order, had been ſettled firſt at Hatherop, in Glouceſterſhire, but their habitation being very incommodious, they were transferred hither by the direction of Ela, the Earl's widow, about the year 1227. This lady gave them the manors of Hinton and Norton St. Philip, and formed, in a manner, a new foundation, to which, in 1534, a yearly revenue of almoſt three hundred pounds was found to belong.*

Philip's Norton.

About a mile from the village of Hinton ſtands PHILIP'S NORTON, or more properly

* Collinſon's *Hiſtory of Somerſet*, vol. 3, p. 368.

Norton

Norton St. Philip, where the Duke of Monmouth, in his way from Taunton, had nearly cut off by ſurprize a fine troop of horſe belonging to the royal army, Henry, Duke of Grafton, narrowly eſcaping with his life. *Somerſet.*

FROME, a noted manufacturing town, is pleaſantly ſituated on a declivity within the foreſt of Selwood, which, however, no longer retains its original aſpect. The river Frome, continuing its courſe from Yarnfield common, in Wiltſhire, paſſes here under a ſtone-bridge of five arches. There is very little neatneſs or regularity in the diſtribution of the buildings in this town, the ſtreets being alſo narrow and ill paved. The manufacture of woollen cloth is ſaid to be rather declining than increaſing, but as many as one hundred and fifty thouſand yards are annually made here even now.* The number of inhabitants amounts to eight thouſand, or more. In Frome.

* *Agricultural Survey of Somerſetſhire.*

regard

Somerſet. regard to antiquity this town may contend with moſt in the county; its hiſtory commences at ſo early a period as the reign of Ina, whoſe kinſman Adhelm, afterwards Biſhop of Sherborn, founded a monaſtery here. Some part of the old building, converted into tenements for poor families, may be diſcovered in that part of the place called *Lower-Keyford*. It was never inhabited by the monks after the time of the Daniſh depredations, which obliged them to diſperſe, and probably deprived them of much of their property.

The manor of Keyford was ſome time the property of the ancient family of Twyniho. Among the memoirs of this family I find a circumſtance, which, as it throws light on a character but imperfectly ſketched in the Engliſh hiſtory, and exhibits a ſpecimen of the irregularities attending, at that period, the adminiſtration of public juſtice, may not ſeem unworthy of mention. It appears that their houſe was one day ſuddenly ſurrounded and broken open by a great

great number of people, who without writ or warrant ſeized on the perſon of *Ankerette*, widow of William Twyniho. This riotous party were headed by one Hyde, of Warwick, and a Roger Strugge, of ſome place in the neighbourhood, tucker. They forcibly conveyed the poor woman (who was equally ignorant of the cauſe of her impriſonment and of the meaſures which were about to be purſued againſt her) to the city of Bath, where for a night they halted. She had not been allowed to bring a ſervant with her, nor even to ſtay a moment in her houſe in order to accommodate herſelf with any articles of apparel. The day following her arrival at Bath ſhe was conveyed to Cirenceſter, in Glouceſterſhire, and hurried thence to Warwick, a diſtance of ſeventy miles from her home. Here, by order of George, Duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV. who had directed the buſineſs from the beginning, ſhe was deprived of all the money, jewels, &c. found about her perſon, and put into a place of confinement. Her daughter, who, anxious for her

Somerſet. her ſafety, and deſirous of tracing out the object of this forcible and unlawful proceeding, had followed with ſome relations and ſervants, was commanded by the Duke to leave Warwick without delay, and lodge the ſame night at Stratford upon Avon, under pain of death. On the third day of her detention, the unfortunate priſoner was carried to the Guildhall of Warwick (where the Juſtices of the Peace were holding their general ſeſſions), and charged with having "maliciouſly and damnably" intended the death of Iſabell, wife of George, Duke of Clarence, whoſe ſervant ſhe had been. Being called upon to ſtate the evidence of this intention, her proſecutors ſwore that ſhe had adminiſtered unto the ſaid Iſabell, "*venymous drynke of ale myxt with poyſon, to poyſon and ſlee the ſeid Iſabell, of which drynke the ſeid Iſabell ſekenyd fro the* 10*th daye of Octobre, unto the Sonday next before the feſt of the Natyvite of oure Lorde then next followyng* (A. D. 1478) *which Sonday ſhe then and thereof dyed.*" To theſe heinous charges Ankerette Twyniho pleaded not guilty. The jury, after

after having heard the regular proceſs of trial, being about to conſult together, were ſo intimidated by the menaces of the Duke and his party who attended in the court, that they at once delivered a verdict of "*guilty*," whereupon the Juſtices pronounced ſentence of death, and the wretched lady was dragged through the middle of the town of Warwick, to the gallows, on which ſhe was without ceremony hanged.—Theſe particulars are collected from a petition which appears on the rolls of Parliament (17 Edward IV.); and that no doubt was entertained of the utter falſehood of the charges is proved by the object of that petition being granted, in conſequence of which the record of the indictment, the proceſs, verdict, and judgment, and all things depending upon the ſame were annulled, repealed, and made void.—We can make but one inference from the barbarous proceedings of the Duke of Clarence, yet it is a matter of wonder that none of our hiſtorians (at leaſt, ſo far as I can diſcover) throw out the the moſt diſtant hint of this prince having committed *Somerſet.*

Somerſet. mitted ſo horrible a murder;—much leſs do they inform us of the tranſaction that I have recited. In looking back to contemporary events, however, I think we ſhall find our ſuſpicions of his guilt too ſtrongly ſupported to be ſtaggered. The very year in which the Dutcheſs is ſtated to have been murdered, the Dutcheſs Dowager of Burgundy, in order to anſwer ſome purpoſes of ſtate, offered her daughter Maria, heireſs to the Dutchy, in marriage to Clarence, juſt then become a widower.* That his wife ſhould have died by natural means at a period ſo critical, and ſo fortunate for the intereſts of the Duke, to whom the propoſal from the Dutcheſs of Burgundy muſt have been in the higheſt degree flattering, may with good reaſon be doubted; and, as he had wedded her more for the ſake of cementing his connection with her father, (the *king-making* Earl of Warwick), than from motives of affection, it does not ſeem probable

* Habington's *Hiſtory of Edward IV.* p. 188.

that

that ſo unprincipled a man would feel any ſcruple to diſpatch her. Be this as it may, his enemies prevented him from accepting the hand of a ſecond wife, by procuring from the king a death-warrant for himſelf. Habington's words on the ſubject of the charges exhibited againſt him, are deſerving of remark: "In his attainder, (ſays he) according to the forme, are *crimes enough to make his death have apparence of juſtice*, the execution of which the King ſeemed rather conſtrain'd to, then to have ſought."* For my part, I cannot help entertaining an idea, that the hiſtorians inimical to Richard III. might have purpoſely concealed any charge on the ſcore of the Dutcheſs's death, in order to make the apparent iniquity of her huſband's execution a matter of accuſation againſt that monarch. *Somerſet.*

In proceeding along this edge of the county, we paſſed through the village of NUNNEY, re- Nunney.

* Page 192.

markable

Somerſet. markable for the ruins of a ſtrong caſtle, the ſhell of which ſtill remains nearly perfect, and is a very fine piece of antiquity. The ground plan of this caſtle is a double ſquare, with a round tower at each corner. It meaſures ſixty-four feet in length, and twenty-ſeven in breadth, and the walls, which appear to be at leaſt ſixty feet high, are on the ſides eight feet and a half in thickneſs, and in the towers about ſeven. There were four ſtories, the lowermoſt of which ſeems to have contained the kitchen and offices, and was diſtinguiſhed from the others on the outſide, by having ſquare inſtead of arched windows. The huge fire-place recalls to our memory the ſubſtantial diſhes of the ancient barons, and we may gueſs from its ſize that it has ſerved to roaſt many an ox entire. Juſt within the door, on the right hand, ſome traces of ſtairs appear, leading to the ſecond ſtory, in which probably was the grand hall, beſides other rooms, the ſtate apartments being ſtill higher. The walls of the towers are pierced with loop-holes; thoſe between have handſome Gothic windows.

Thomas Hackett del.
S. Alken fecit.

windows. At the upper part of this magnificent pile, the towers are contracted in diameter, and ſeem to have communicated with the parapet that goes round the outſide about fifteen feet below the top. The ſhrubs, the feſtoons of ivy, and the large fragments of ſtone hanging from the ſhattered battlements, impart the moſt picturesque effect to this bold relic of deſolated grandeur. Weeds and rubbiſh choak up the moat, which was formerly of great width and depth, and ſurrounded the whole building, receiving its ſupply of water from a brook that runs by the principal front, through the middle of the village. *Somerſet.*

Collinſon ſays that this caſtle was erected by Sir John Delamere, lord of Nunney, about the end of the thirteenth century. He muſt certainly be miſtaken, however, in aſſigning its architecture to ſo early a period. Our own obſervation led us to conclude that it was of ſo late a date as Henry VI.'s time.—The Delameres were very early poſſeſſed of the chief

Somerſet. manor of this place, which has commonly had the addition of their name to its own. But we have no account of any military tranſaction here until the reign of Charles I. when the caſtle was garriſoned for him and had a large magazine. In September, 1645, it was taken by the Parliament, and probably ſoon afterwards diſmantled to prevent any future ſervice that it might have afforded to the king. The effects of the ſiege are very viſible, particularly on its weſtern front.

Near the ſouth ſide of the caſtle is an old manſion called the *Caſtle-houſe*, which was formerly the ſeat of the lord of the manor, but is now faſt decaying, except a few rooms inhabited by a farmer. James Theobald, of Waltham-place, in Berkſhire, Eſq. is the preſent proprietor of the eſtate.

Contiguous to the church-yard of this village we noticed a ruinous houſe to all appearance very ancient, and called, we underſtood, the *Court-*

Court-houſe. Tradition ſays there was once a nunnery here, from which the place had its name; if this account be true, the building in queſtion might have belonged to it. *Somerſet.*

Nunney is far from being a deſpicable village, and there is a ſort of romantic appearance in the ſituation that renders it pleaſant. The quarries around it, produce a blackiſh hard limeſtone, nearly allied to that which abounds on Mendip. A fine bluiſh lyas is alſo found not far diſtant, and when poliſhed ſeems not ill entitled to the denomination of a marble.

Between Nunney and Brewton runs a romantic dale, bounded by abrupt rocks, which in their groteſque ſhapes and verdant ornaments reſemble, in miniature, ſome of the crag ſcenes of Derbyſhire and Staffordſhire. We have here too the idea of a chaſm formed by a ſudden, partial convulſion.—This dale lies too far to the right to be noticed without ſtepping to ſome diſtance from the high road, though the latter

Somerſet. ſometimes winds enough to bring to view ſteep deſcents.

Brewton. There is an effect remarkably pleaſing in the ſcenery immmediately ſurrounding BREWTON, and, though the hills are neither bold nor well ſhaped in general, their gently undulating outline, added to the vividneſs of the rich verdure that covers them, intereſts the eye extremely. The vales are meadows, the declivities orchards, and the eminences ſheep-walks. The town is ſheltered on all ſides, but the greater part of it ſtands on a gentle elevation of ground, riſing above the river Brew, from which it takes its name. This place was once the ſeat of Sir Maurice Berkeley, whoſe younger ſon John, as a reward for his ſervices to the royal cauſe, was created by Charles II. Lord Berkeley of Stratton. The title became extinct, however, in 1772, and the manor is become the property of Sir Richard Hoare, Bart. Some walls, contiguous to the church, and a few unmeaning fragments are all the remains of the manſion, the

the principal materials of which were pulled down by the preſent owner. The grounds are ſtill encloſed as originally. We found no veſtiges of the priory of Brewton; indeed a conſiderable part of it was modernized and occupied by the Berkeley family, and conſequently underwent the fate of their ſeat. The church, which is a large ſtructure, has two quadrangular towers, one occupying the weſt end, and the other riſing from one ſide of the north aile. The latter ſeems to have belonged to the original building, but the former is by far the moſt handſome, being finiſhed in an elaborate ſtyle of Gothic, and ornamented with elegant pinnacles. In this church, William, Lord Berkeley, his ſon Captain Berkeley, of the royal navy, and Lord Fitzharding lie interred, and here (as appears by the regiſters of the pariſh) Charles I. once heard a ſermon, preached by the Biſhop of Bath and Wells.—There is a very rich hoſpital in this town, the eſtates belonging to which were the gift of Hugh Saxey, who is ſaid to have been once a ſtable-boy at one of the inns, but after- *Somerſet.*

Somerſet. wards, by the help of a little education and a courſe of active conduct, advanced to the poſt of Auditor to Queen Elizabeth. His ſtatue may be ſeen in a niche on the ſouth ſide of the court, in which are ſeveral apartments and a neat little chapel.—The income of the eſtates belonging to this charity amounts to conſiderably more than two thouſands pounds *per annum*.—There is a manufacture of hoſiery in Brewton, and a great number of hands are employed in ſilk reeling, whence it will naturally be ſuppoſed that the place is by no means deficient in populouſneſs.

On the banks bordering the road to Caſtle-Cary, not two hundred yards from Brewton, we were fortunate enough to find *Campanula patula*, which, by its profuſion in this ſituation, would ſcarcely ſeem ranked among the rareſt Engliſh plants with propriety.

Stavordale Priory. We were now too near to the PRIORY of STAVORDALE to have been excuſed, had we omitted

omitted aſcertaining what remained of it. This Priory was founded by Richard Lovell, lord of the manor of Wincaunton (from which it is not more than three miles diſtant), for Canons of the order of St. Auguſtine.* The donation of his eſtates for this purpoſe was made in the reign of Henry III. In 1533, the ſociety were united to the Priory of Taunton; after the diſſolution of that monaſtery, the lands were granted to John, Earl of Oxford, but to whom they afterwards devolved I am ignorant. *Somerſet.*

Stavordale Priory has undergone an alteration from which few monaſtic ſtructures that were left in a tolerably perfect ſtate have been ſaved. It is now a farm-houſe and barn. The latter was the chapel, and ſtill retains ſome Gothic arches and carved timber work. In the wall of the porch is the baſon for holy water, and a turret remains on the top that was in-

* Collinſon's *Hiſtory of Somerſet*, vol. 3, p. 33.

Somerſet. tended for the bell. There is nothing to give you any idea of ſplendor, or to ſupport a belief of the original buildings having occupied any great extent of ground, but the ſituation and ſcenery being not wholly unpictureſque excite ſome degree of intereſt, and render the metamorphoſed Priory deſerving of being commemorated by the pencil.—In a field belonging to the farm, ſouth-weſt of the houſe, ſome remains of an octagonal ſtone-croſs may be traced.

To render our circuit complete, it was neceſſary to paſs once more through Shafteſbury, and indeed this place lay directly in the line by which we wiſhed to continue our journey to a part of Dorſetſhire that we were ſtill deſirous of viſiting.

DORSET-

Thos. Hearne del.
J. Taylor sculp.

DORSETSHIRE

CONTINUED.

THE track we had choſen conducted us through the pariſh of GILLINGHAM, ſituated in a low paſture country, cloſe to the borders of Wiltſhire, the chalk hills of which county now ſtretched on our left. Gillingham foreſt was diſforeſted by Charles I. It is aſtoniſhing that ſo large an extent of land (eſpecially if we include the foreſt of Selwood) ſhould have been reſerved by our monarchs for waſte and wild animals in a part of the country ſo valuable for the objects of agriculture. Gillingham.

Paſſing from Shafteſbury towards Blandford, we ſoon loſe all appearance of any ſubſtance beſides

Dorſet. beſides flint and chalk, the commencement of which, in this direction, is marked by Melbury hill,—a very bold eminence rearing itſelf to the height of one thouſand, five hundred, and ten feet above the level of the ſea. The declivities were now again diſtinguiſhed by thoſe ſingular natural terraces, which we ſo often contemplated with wonder on our tour, and which muſt ſo often occur to the eyes of the traveller in traverſing the downs of Dorſetſhire and Wiltſhire. It may be unneceſſary to ſay that I allude to the *linches*, or *linchets*, as they are called,—geological appearances that we no where find accounted for, though their frequency and peculiarity cannot but render them equally deſerving of attention with many objects that daily exerciſe the ingenuity, and excite the contention of philoſophers.—I have never ſeen theſe linches but on chalk hills. An exception may be made, indeed, in regard to ſome limeſtone ſoils, as about Brewton, in Somerſetſhire, and a few other places, and, even in theſe inſtances, the ridges are extremely faint. It may be remarked, that

in

in proportion to the ſteepneſs of the deſcent, the narrower are the terraces, and the more abrupt the ridges, but on an eaſy declivity the areas are very broad, and the ridges diminiſh in ſharpneſs. In moſt inſtances theſe laſt run parallel to the courſe of the valley immediately below, thoſe parts which have the greateſt declination hanging over the deepeſt ground. Sometimes they are ſeen to cut one another, and to run in all directions on the ſame ſlope, but the concomitant circumſtances are great inequalities in the neareſt valley, or a peculiar irregularity in the hill itſelf.—From attending to theſe appearances I could never form any other idea than that linches owe their origin to ſubſidences of ground in a ſtate of ſolution. Upon this ſuppoſition, wherever the greateſt ſinkings took place, the *waves* of mud that followed would ſlide loweſt. If the ſubſidence was abrupt and ſudden, the greater would be the accumulation of the ſoft matter rolling down for want of ſupport; if it was gentle and gradual, ſhallow waves only would follow, except near the upper parts, where the

Dorſet.

Dorſet. the maſſes would at firſt ſlide with ſome rapidity and volume, on account of a greater fluidity of the ſoil near the ſurface. *Stratum* after *ſtratum* would continue to ſink, until the more liquid had wholly drained into the valleys and hollows. The roundneſs of the *brows* of chalk hills can be accounted for only by this theory, becauſe if their upper *ſtrata* had not being originally fluid, a ſharpneſs of edge muſt have been left. There is another circumſtance to be conſidered: flint ſcarcely ever lies in any other than horizontal beds,—at leaſt ſo far as I have obſerved in the ſouthern parts of our iſland. We cannot conceive this arrangement to have happened but in conſequence of depoſition, though of the individual proceſs by which the depoſition was occaſioned it ſeems as if we muſt remain for ever ignorant.

Huge undulations of chalk appear along this edge of the county, their ſides but ſcantily covered in ſome places with bruſhwood and furze until we come to the Chace.—On the right, the

ſifter

ſifter hills of Hod and Hameldon appear; both of theſe are fortified with ſtrong, regular ramparts, and command extenſive views of the vale of Blackmoor and the neighbouring country. From the alpine nature of the ſituation, a botaniſt may promiſe himſelf ſome ſucceſs on theſe heights. Dr. Pulteney found *Cineraria integrifolia* (mountain flea-wort) on Hod-hill, and I have myſelf ſeen *Theſium linophyllum* (baſtard toadflax) and *Rubia ſylveſtris* in a wood ſkirting its declivities.—The ſcenery of the Chace is in many points extremely beautiful, gaining its effect chiefly from its wildneſs, and from long blue hills in the diſtance. Many groupes of trees, from the rudeneſs and irregularity of their growth, form very pictureſque objects, and ſeduce the attention moſt effectually from the dreary country beyond. *Dorſet.*

There are no longer any traces of Pimpern maze, which we had no occaſion to go out of our way to ſearch for, as it was ſituated juſt at the conjunction of the Saliſbury and Shafteſbury roads.

Dorſet. roads. Hutchins ſays it was deſtroyed by the plough in 1730; Dr. Stukely viſited it before that year, and by his diſquiſition upon it in his *Itinerarium*,* excited our curioſity to ſee ſuch a work very ſtrongly, though the learned antiquary muſt certainly have ſtrained conjecture a good deal too far in aſſigning the origin of the *Troy-towns*, as they are called, to the Roman times. The coincidence of appellations indeed ſeems at firſt in a ſingular manner to countenance his idea of the games of Julus having been introduced into England, for in ſome parts of the country theſe mazes are called alſo *Julian's bowers*. But when we conſider that theſe were merely a few banks, raiſed with chalk and turf two or three feet above the ground, and curving in the manner of a labyrinth, wide enough only to admit perſons on foot, it is more natural to conclude that they were intended ſolely for purpoſes of paſtoral amuſement.

* Vol. 1, p. 97.

The

The word *Troy* is likely to have been originally Welſh, for mazes are frequent in Wales, and have there the name of *Caer-troi*, ſignifying *turning towns*. *Dorſet.*

In order to viſit WNIBORN-MINSTER, we were obliged once more to paſs through Blandford, from which a road paſſes a little to the right of Badbury.—We had not planned well in excluding Winborn from our firſt tour, eſpecially as it was ſo near when we firſt ſet out. Winborn-Minſter.

This town is of high antiquity, and obtained the name of *Minſter* from its church, which formerly belonged to a monaſtery erected here by St. Cuthburga, as Leland tells us.* It ſtands on a gravelly ſoil between the Stour and the Allen, and, though not a place of trade, contains a good number of inhabitants, who have ſome concern in the woollen manufacture and the

* *Itinerary*, vol. 3, p. 72.

knitting

Dorſet. knitting of hoſiery.—The minſter is a ſtructure deſerving of particular notice, no leſs on account of its age and venerable appearance, than of ſeveral peculiarities in its ſtyle of architecture. It meaſures one hundred and eighty feet in length, and has two quadrangular towers, one of which ſtands on the middle of the roof, and the other at the weſt end. There was once a ſpire on the eaſtern tower, which, however, in my opinion ſuffered no loſs from its fall. A curious mixture of the Saxon and Gothic orders is obſervable through the whole of this building, and thoſe who imagine the latter to have ſprung out of the former may certainly here find ſome confirmation of their conjectures.* The interlaced

* I cannot heſitate to acknowledge, that for my own part, I have always thought a tranſition from the Saxon into the Gothic ſtyle extremely eaſy, and the reaſons on which I have founded my belief that the one actually paſſed into the other are the reſult of a diligent ſtudy of many different ſtructures in this kingdom. It is very natural to imagine that ſeveral of the peculiarities by which the various orders are characteriſed owe their origin to chance and ſudden conceits of workmen. The perforations which occur in the church belonging to the Hoſpital of St. Croſs, near Wincheſter, muſt have given an idea of a new and elegant kind of arch,

laced Saxon arches adorning the outſide of the eaſtern tower, being perforated in ſeveral places under the points of interſection, abſolutely conſtitute *Gothic* windows. In the inſide, large pointed arches may be ſeen ſweeping round and encloſing a row of ſmall circular ones. The arches of the nave are pointed, but have Saxon mouldings, and the pillars are maſſy. The windows above theſe are very obtuſe, and would, on that account, ſeem to be of a modern date, in compariſon with the reſt of the church. *Dorſet.*

arch, whether the Gothic was then known as a ſeparate order or not, and it is very improbable that its effect ſhould eſcape the eye of an architect. But ſuppoſing the Gothic arch to be wholly unconnected with the Saxon in its origin, and introduced from a diſtant country, how happened it to ſpread in England by piece-meal only? The commencement of the pure, abſolute Gothic is uſually fixed at about the end of the thirteenth century. If this part of its hiſtory be correct, the mixed ſtyle muſt have prevailed nearly one hundred years, for we find no edifices in the uncorrupted Saxon after the year 1200. Long after the reign of Henry III. there ſtill remained in the Gothic order what I cannot help conſidering as memorials of its origin,—detached ſhafts ſupporting the arches of windows, which evidently correſpond with the appendages to the interlaced circular arches on the towers of Winborn Minſter and the church of the Hoſpital of St. Croſs. The idea of the three compartments in the Gothic window may likewiſe be derived from the ſame quarter.

Dorſet. —On the ſouth wall of the choir four niches ſtill remain, and there are ſeveral old ſtalls, which probably belonged to the prebendaries who were placed here after the nuns, but are now occupied by the corporation. Cardinal Pole, Camden ſays, was ſome time Dean.—Among the diſtinguiſhed perſons interred in this church are St. Cuthburga (who was ſiſter of Ina, King of the Weſt-Saxons, and wife of Alfred, King of Northumberland), and King Ethelred, ſlain in an engagement with the Danes at Wittingham. The grave of the latter is marked, but not by the ancient inſcription.—We admired very much the monument of Sir Edmund Uvedale, ſituated on one ſide of the ſouth aile. Its date is 1606, but the workmanſhip is ſo extremely good that it would not diſgrace a much later period. The figure, which repreſents the knight reclining on one hand, has uncommon eaſe, and the execution of the armour and belt deſerves particular notice. Under an arch, on the ſouth ſide of the choir lie the *effigies* of John Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet and

and his wife, the parents of Margaret, Counteſs of Richmond.—On the oppoſite ſide, Gertrude Marchioneſs of Exeter, and mother of Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, was interred.—The crypt underneath the choir ſeems to have been built at the ſame period as the reſt of the church; it has pointed arches, with bold circular groins to ſupport the roof. This crypt was formerly uſed as a chantry. The cavity cut for containing holy water ſtill remains.—There is a library contiguous to the ſouth part of the minſter, but it contains only a few worm-eaten books of ſchool divinity, which I ſee no neceſſity for *chaining* any longer. A polyglott bible alone makes any thing like a reſpectable appearance, among ſo much rubbiſh.—Divine ſervice is performed by three miniſters, who are elected by the corporation. *Dorſet.*

South-eaſt from Winborn-Minſter, at the diſtance of two miles, is the village of GREAT-CANFORD, where are ſtill ſome remains of the ancient manſion of the Longeſpees and Montacutes, Great Canford.

Dorſet. cutes, Earls of Saliſbury. Theſe remains conſiſt chiefly of a kitchen, which is generally known by the appellation of *John of Gaunt's kitchen*, whether on account only of his having been entertained here, or in conſequence of his having been proprietor of the manſion itſelf, I cannot ſay, though it does not appear by any ancient records that the *manor* ever came into the poſſeſſion of the Duke. The kitchen at preſent adjoins to the houſe of Sir John Webb, Bart. and has been much modernized on the outſide. Two curious embattled chimnies, however, are left ſtanding. The ſmoke was let out through perforations at the ſides. Within, three large fire-places may be ſeen, but the communication between the two parts into which the kitchen is divided has been ſtopped, one being now entered only from the ſtreet. The largeſt fire-place meaſures nearly twenty feet in width. —It was in 1765 that the habitable part of the old ſeat was pulled down, and the preſent houſe erected, which is now the reſidence of a ſociety of Nuns, for the accommodation of whom

whom it was extremely eligible. Theſe ladies, who are of the Carmelite order, came hither from Hoſtricht (between Antwerp and Breda) about three years ago. *Dorſet.*

The church of Great Canford is a very ancient ſtructure, though, from its meanneſs, it at firſt appears unworthy of notice. The windows of the tower are Saxon.—With regard to the village itſelf, the ſituation is pleaſing, being on the borders of ſome wide, verdant meadows which are watered by the river Stour.

The road from Winborn to Saliſbury paſſes through the pariſh of Cranborn, to the ſouth-weſt of which ſtands WINBORN ST. GILES, the ſeat of the Earl of Shafteſbury. This manor came into the poſſeſſion of the Aſhleys in the reign of Edward IV. The heireſs of Sir Anthony Aſhley, who was knighted at the ſiege of Cadiz, in 1597, brought it to the Coopers of Rockburn, in Hampſhire. Her ſon became Earl of Shafteſbury, and was Lord Chancellor Winborn St. Giles.

Dorſet. in 1672. There are monuments of ſeveral of this family in the pariſh church, which is ſituated cloſe to the park, and deſerves mention, if only on account of its neatneſs.—With regard to the manſion, the eaſtern part is the moſt ancient, and was the ſeat of the Aſhleys; the weſtern was built in 1651. The river Allen runs through the grounds.

Mention of the Shafteſbury family muſt neceſſarily bring to our minds the eloquent and philoſophic Earl who added ſo much ſplendor to it by his writings. It was to Michael Ainſworth, a native of this village, that he addreſſed his "*Letters.*" His lordſhip's benevolent diſpoſition prompted him to patronize this young man, whoſe relatives being placed but little above poverty, he undertook to pay all his Univerſity expences.

Cranborn. CRANBORN, occupying a low ſpot not far from the head of the Allen, was a place of great note in the Saxon and Norman times, but there are

are no particulars in its hiſtory deſerving of being recorded here, except the birth of Biſhop Stillingfleet.—It has the advantage of a market, and is ſurrounded by a fine ſporting country, which, however, is now curtailed of ſome of its recommendations by the converſion of a great part of the Chace to the more uſeful purpoſes of huſbandry. *Dorſet.*

It is with regret I find myſelf at length arrived at the termination of my tours. Deſcribing has ſeemed like a ſecond time ſurveying the ſcenes which I ſhould never re-viſit without new delight; under that deluſion I have frequently fallen into expreſſions of admiration applicable only to the reality. It is too probable that I have erred in imagining that the reader would partake of my ſenſations. Whilſt I have contemplated a *picture*, he has had only a *ſketch* to inſpect, and a ſketch roughly and imperfectly traced too, through the impotency of the pencil employed upon it, as well as the immenſity of the original. Yet, if, I ſhould for-

Dorſet. tunately have ſucceeded in endeavouring to excite an intereſt in the ſubject, to awaken curioſity, to exerciſe ſpeculation, or to guide the traveller to objects that may gratify him,—I cannot conſider my time ill ſpent, nor deſpair of my undertaking being to ſome extent approved.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS

EXPLANATORY OF THE

MAP.

TO ſum up the mineralogical Remarks, relative to ſoil, ſcattered through theſe volumes, no other means can be ſatisfactorily made uſe of but a delineation in the manner of a Map, by which a general idea of the ſeveral tranſitions of ſubſtances may be obtained at one view. It would be impoſſible, however, to repreſent with perfect accuracy *all* the ſuperficial *ſtrata* of ſo extenſive a diſtrict as that which forms the ſubject of the preceding obſervations, without having ſurveyed every part of it with the moſt ſcrupulous nicety, and without a minuteneſs of inſpection wholly irreconcileable with the objects, and the opportunities, of a curſory journey. In fact, to mark obſervations merely acci-

accidental, trace every trifling irregularity, and diſtinguiſh every ſhade and faint variation, of ſubſtances ſpread over ſo wide a ſpace, would not only require a ſcale ſo enlarged as to weary the eye in following it, but, after all, become no important acquiſition to the more enlarged and uſeful views of the geologiſt. I have not attempted therefore to exhibit any thing more than the grand ſtretch of the different *ſtrata*, and the moſt prevalent ſubſtance in the compoſition of each. The method uſually adopted for theſe purpoſes has been to ſtain the ſpaces ſuppoſed to be occupied by the ſeveral ſubſtances with different colours, but theſe have always appeared to me to be attended with many inconveniencies and imperfections. As characters they are entirely arbitrary, and cannot be made to expreſs either the gradual changes of compoſition, or the connection of *ſtrata* one with another.—A ſecond method made uſe of in mineralogical maps has been ſhading, by means of lines, in ſuch a way that the alterations of ſoil ſhould be diſcovered by their different direc-

tions

tions and combinations. This idea ſeems to have been firſt ſtarted by Dr. Martin Liſter, more than a century ago. He publiſhed his plan in the *Philoſophical Tranſactions*,* under the title of "*A Propoſal for a new Sort of Maps of Countries*," which, was, in fact, the firſt hint of the utility of mineralogical maps in any ſhape. M. Guettard employs lines in his "*Carte Mineralogique ſur la Nature et la Situation des Terreins qui traverſent la France et l'Angleterre*," which occurs in the Hiſtory of the Royal Academy of Sciences for the year 1746. Mr. Whitehurſt alſo (in his "*Inquiry into the original State and Formation of the Earth*") and Mr. Fraſer (in his "*Agricultural Survey of Devonſhire*") have purſued the ſame plan. Yet much greater advantages attend the uſe of lines than appear in the above inſtances, or than have hitherto indeed been imagined. Lines are characters no leſs arbitary than co-

* Number 164, p. 739.

lours,

lours, if they can be applied to no other purpoſe than the mere demarcation of *ſtrata*, without denoting whether they have any affinity one to another, or not, and whether they be inſulated, as it were, and terminate abruptly, or connect themſelves by a participation of the ſame ſubſtance in their compoſition.

In the annexed Map, theſe points will ſeem to be gained, it is hoped. As an exemplification, the characters denoting killas and argillaceous ſlate may be compared with each other.—Strait horizontal lines combined with diagonal ones proceeding downwards from the left conſtitute the character for the former of theſe ſubſtances; undulated horizontal lines for the latter. The direction of one of the component parts of the character for killas being made to correſpond with that of the ſimple lines denoting the ſlate will ſerve to point out the tranſition of the one ſubſtance into the other, ſo obvious in ſeveral parts of Cornwall and Devonſhire. Strait lines, ſeparately, in the ſame direction, being

being pitched upon to ſignify clay, will exhibit the affinity between it and the ſlate; by forming a part of the character of killas they ſerve alſo to ſhew that a principal part of the compoſition of this laſt is argill. The diagonal lines, which are uſed ſeparately for ſerpentine, point out the other prevailing earth in killas, *viz.* the magneſian, and connect the killas with granite, in which they may repreſent the micaceous, as when in a contrary direction the quartzoſe, portion of that rock. It may be objected that ſimple lines are by no means natural ſigns for a ſubſtance ſo compounded as ſerpentine, eſpecially when in other ſubſtances they ſtand for pure *magneſia*; clay, likewiſe, it may be ſaid, from never occurring in the ſtate of pure argill, is not repreſented by the ſame ſign as the latter, nor quartzoſe rock by the ſame as *ſilex*, with conſiſtency. To this I reply that as no other ſubſtances occur in the Map approaching more nearly to the ſtate of pure *magneſia*, argill, and *ſilex* than the ſerpentine, clay, and quartzoſe rock, the ſimple characters ſeemed rather eligible than otherwiſe, on account

account of the inconvenience attending a multiplication of ſigns. It would certainly be improper to recommend them as *general* mineralogical characters, eſpecially when others of an analogous nature may be made merely by undulating, doubling, or interrupting the lines; indeed characters of this ſort may be varied to infinity,—a convenience that cannot be obtained by colours.

I have been in ſome perplexity to determine whether the preponderating ſubſtance in the compoſition of a mineral, or the external appearance by which it is arranged in a ſyſtem, ſhould have the preference in regulating the mineralogical ſign. Upon the whole, it may produce leſs confuſion to follow the arrangement obſerved in ſcientific catalogues, and I have accordingly given the magneſian ſign to ſerpentine, though it is well known that this ſpecies contains *ſilex* in the proportion of five to three to *magneſia*. There are few inſtances, however, of the place of a mineral in the ſyſtem being

being at variance with the proportions of its component parts.

In defining the extent of ſome *ſtrata* which our route did not allow me the means of tracing ſufficiently myſelf, I have depended on the beſt information I could procure, though it has rarely happened that I have had occaſion to apply to other quarters, as the gaps in my own obſervations were few.

As the inſertion of the names of towns and the courſe of rivers in a map of ſo ſmall a ſcale would have occaſioned great confuſion, thoſe of the more remarkable projections and receſſes of the coaſt only are noticed.

There cannot be a more convenient plan for conſtructing a mineralogical Map than this here propoſed. A ruler and a pen or pencil are all the materials neceſſary for a traveller to carry with him in order to delineate as he proceeds.— If it be as practicable to repreſent the ſoil as it

is

is any picturesque object that occurs, (and there is no question that the study is equally *useful*), we may hope to see very shortly a complete picture of the mineral face of the whole island.

Length

MINERALOGICAL MAP, of the WESTERN COUNTIES of ENGLAND.

EXPLANATION.

- Chalk
- Limestone / Calcareous Grit
- Clay
- Argillaceous Slate / Shistose Clay
- Argillaceous Gritstone / Loam
- Killas
- Serpentine
- Quartz
- Granite / Granitello
- Sand / Gravel

Part of WALES
Part of MONMOUTHSHIRE
Part of GLOUCESTERSHIRE
BRISTOL CHANNEL
Lundy Isle
Flatholm
Steepholm
Barnstaple Bay
Hartland Point
Part of WILTSHIRE
Part of HANTS
Padstow Harbour
Poole Harbour
Exmouth
Torbay
Portland
St. Aldhelm's head
St. Ives Bay
Trewardreth Bay
Plymouth Harbour
Start Bay
Start Point
SCILLY ISLES
Land's end
Mount's Bay
Falmouth Harbour
C. Lizard
BRITISH CHANNEL

Engravd by B. Longmate, N.o 11, Noel Str.t Soho, London.

Length of the ſeveral Stages

ON THE

PRECEDING TOURS.

FIRST TOUR.

	Miles.
(FROM SALISBURY to) Spetiſbury *(Dorſet)* by Moore-Critchill . . .	24
Swanwich	20
Poole, and back, including Studland, the Aggleſtone, and Brownſea . .	22
Weſt Lullworth, including St. Adhelm's head and Kimmeridge . . .	16
Weymouth	12
Cheſilton	5

Portland bill, and back, including Kingſton	9
Abbotſbury	9
Bridport	10
Charmouth	6
Lyme-Regis	3
Sidmouth *(Devon)*	16
Ottery St. Mary	6
Exeter	11
Thorverton, and back, including Upton-Pyne	7
Teignmouth, by Powderham Caſtle and Start-point	17
Chudleigh	7
Aſhburton, including Bovey-Heathfield	9
Totneſs	8
Torquay, including Berry-Pomeroy	10
Dartmouth	14

Ivy-

Ivy-bridge	17
Plymouth	10
Saltaſh *(Cornwall)*	4
Fowey, including Eaſt and Weſt Looe	20
St. Germain's	6
Menabilly	3
Polgooth Mine, and back	16
Roche Rocks, and back	18
Truro	18
Falmouth	12
Cape Lizard, by Gweek and Mullion	20
Helſton	11
Marazion, including Pengerſwick	10
Penzance	3
St. Burien's, including Bolleit	5
St. Juſt, including Treryn and Land's-end	10
St. Ives, including Caſtle Chun	15

Camborn, including Hale Pounding-houſes	10
Redruth	4
Gwennap Mines, and back	8
St. Agnes, by the North Downs	6
St. Michael, including Huel-Mexico	10
St. Columb	7
Bodmin	11
Camelford, by Wadebridge	16
Tintagel	6
Launceſton, including Boſcaſtle	17
Callington	12
Saltaſh, including Pentilly Caſtle	7
Bere-Alſton, and back *(Devon)*	12
Plymouth	4
Plymouth-Dock, and back	4
Mount Edgcumbe, and back	5
Taviſtock, through Plym Wood	8

Oke-

Okehampton, including Lidford	16
Exeter	23
Honiton	16
Axminſter	9
Ford Abbey, and back	14
Bridport	12
Dorcheſter	15
Blandford	16
SALISBURY	22
Total Length of the firſt Tour	729

SECOND TOUR.

(From SALISBURY to) Shafteſbury *(Dorſet)*	20
Milborn-Port	13
Sherborn	2
Cern-Abbas, and back	24
Broad-Marſton *(Somerſet)*	8
Ilcheſter	6
Somerton	5
Langport	5
Taunton	13
Columbton *(Devon)*	27
Exeter	7
Crediton	8

Bow

Bow	8
Hatherleigh	14
Torrington	13
Biddeford, including Frithelſtoke	9
Hartland, and back	30
Barnſtaple	8
Ilfracombe	11
Combe-Martin	5
Linton	10
Porlock *(Somerſet)*	12
Minehead	7
Dunſter	2
Watchett, including Old-Cleeve	8
Bridgwater	20
Banwell	20
Woodſpring, and back	14
Chedder	6

Wells, including Wookey	9
Glaſtonbury	5
Bath	25
Frome	13
Nunney	3
Brewton	9
Shaftesbury *(Dorſet)*, including Stavordale Priory	18
Blandford	12
Winborn	8
Great Canford, and back	4
Cranborn	9
SALISBURY	11
Total Length of the ſecond Tour	461

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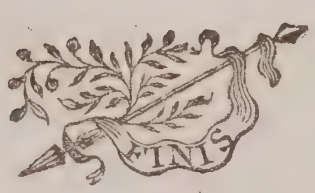

Errata.

VOL. I.

Page 28, line 5, (note) for *todidem* read *totidem*.
— 214, — 13, for *each* read *them*.
— 225, — 8, — *has* — *have*.
— 235, — 12, — *remind* — *reminds*.
— 322, — 16, — *Iter* — *Itinerarium*.

VOL. II.

— 22, — 18, — *ſeems* — *ſeem*.
— 37, — 13, — *begins* — *begin*.
— 44, — 12, — *irreconciliable* — *irreconcileable*.
— 46, — 10, after *the* inſert *foot*.
— — — 11, dele *foot*.
— 123, — 19, between *of* and *hills* inſert *the*.
— 131, — 8, for *pleaſes* read *pleaſe*.
— 168, — 3, for *appurtenanccs* read *appertenances*.

Directions for placing the Plates.

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